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City of Walterboro

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Walterboro, South Carolina 29488

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Walterboro, South Carolina 29488-0008

Walterboro City Council

Regular Meeting

July 9, 2013

City Hall

6:15 P.M.

A G E N D A

I. Call to Order:

1. Invocation.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Swearing-in of Newly Elected Council Members:

III. Public Input on Agenda Items:

IV. Proclamations and Resolutions:

1. Proclamation No. 2013-05, to Recognize the Colleton Preparatory Academy War Hawks Softball Team (Proclamation attached).

V. Presentation:

1. UDO Language, Mike N. Katchuk (Letter attached).

VI. Approval of Minutes:

1. Minutes of the May 14, 2013 Regular Meeting (Minutes attached).
2. Minutes of the June 11, 2013 Regular Meeting (Minutes attached).

VII. Old Business:

VIII. New Business:

1. Nomination of Mayor Pro-Tem.
2. Council Internal/External Committee Appointments.
3. Consideration of Funding Recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Board (Memorandum attached).

IX. Committee Reports:

1. Youth Committee Report - Council Member Tom Lohr.

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Agenda
July 9, 2013

X. Executive Session:

1. Personnel Matters; Boards, Commissions and Appointments.
2. Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements.

XI. ADJOURNMENT.

Proclamation No. 2013-05
by the Mayor and City Council
Walterboro, South Carolina

WHEREAS, the Colleton Preparatory Academy (CPA) War Hawks softball team has a tradition of serving as proud representatives of Walterboro and Colleton County; and,

WHEREAS, on May 14, 2013 War Hawks defeated Clarendon Hall 4-2 to claim the 2013 SCISA Class A State Championship finishing the year with twenty-seven wins and only five losses in which the War Hawks outscored their opponents by more than two-hundred points; and,

WHEREAS, Kendall Jumper, Courtney Kramer, Laura Reynolds, and Jaime McLaine were selected for the North-South All Star team; and,

WHEREAS, Kendall Jumper, Courtney Kramer, Hannah Syfrett, Laura Reynolds, Ashlyn Polk, and Jaime McLaine were selected for the All-Region Team; and,

WHEREAS, Kendall Jumper was named Region 1 Class A Player of the Year; and,

WHEREAS, Kendall Jumper, Courtney Kramer, Hannah Syfrett, Laura Reynolds, Ashlyn Polk, and Jaime McLaine were selected for the High School Sports Report 2013 All-State Team; and,

WHEREAS, Kendall Jumper was named the High School Sports Report's 2013 SCISA Class A Player of the Year; and,

WHEREAS, Head Coach Mallory Crawford, in her third season, was named the High School Sports Report's 2013 SCISA Class A Coach of the Year and was selected as Head Coach for the South All-Star Team in the North-South game; and,

WHEREAS, the War Hawks' performance is a tribute to the dedication of the team, their parents, coaches, support staff, students, and fans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Mayor and Council, in Council Assembled, that Walterboro City Council joins the entire community in recognizing the tremendous achievements of the 2013 Colleton Preparatory Academy (CPA) War Hawks softball team by proclaiming July 10, 2013 as "WAR HAWK DAY" in the City of Walterboro.

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Mayor and City Council encourage the community to show its support for the Colleton Preparatory Academy War Hawks and extends its best wishes to the team.

DONE, this is 9th day of July, 2013.

William T. Young, Jr., Mayor
City of Walterboro, South Carolina

ATTEST:

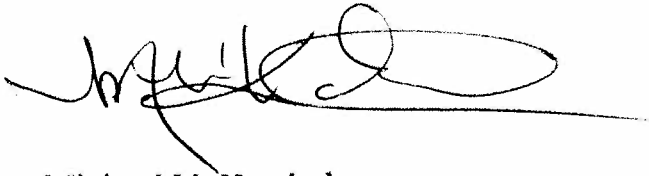
Betty J. Hudson, Municipal Clerk

July 2, 2013
City Of Walterboro
City Council

Dear Council Members,

I, Michael N. Katchuk, request time be allotted for me to speak before council on July 9, 2013. I want to speak about issues with the language in sections of the UDO and on issues with the language under Code Enforcement/Functions on the website (www.walterborosc.org).

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael N. Katchuk', written over a horizontal line.

Michael N. Katchuk
314 N. Miller St.
Walterboro, SC 29488

1. We want to see an amendment to Section 13.3 Nonconforming Uses of the UDO. The language of Section 13.3.2 and 13.3.4 needs to be revised. As written; it is too restrictive for our city and places undue burden on property owners.

2. We want to see an amendment to the language on the Waltherboro website, under Government/Code Enforcement Functions:

The language on page 5 needs to be revised to protect property owner's rights.

'Once in each calendar year the Building Inspector or his deputy shall make an inspection of any building in the corporate limits of the city and for such purpose he or his deputy may enter any building without molestation by anyone.'

This is a violation of peoples 4th Amendment rights.

It is also a direct violation of Section 104.6 (Right of Entry) of the International Building Code 2006 (adopted by the city); which states they must first obtain permission to enter from the owner/resident prior to access. **Section 104.6 also stipulates that the building official have reasonable cause to believe that there exists in a structure or upon premises, a condition which makes the structure of premises unsafe, dangerous or hazardous.** This does not allow for random, unannounced audits of properties, as written on the government website.

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Walterboro City Council
Regular Meeting
May 14, 2013

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: Paul Siegel, Dwayne Buckner, Charles Lucas, Randy Peters, Tom Lohr and Bobby Bonds. City Manager Jeff Lord, City Clerk Betty Hudson and City Attorney George Cone were also present. There were approximately 30 persons present in the audience.

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

At this point, the Mayor took a moment to thank and congratulate Mr. Bubba Trippe and the Rice Festival Committee for doing an outstanding job with our Rice Festival this year. He further stated that the festival just gets bigger and better every year. That entire committee does a great job and Mr. Trippe has been an outstanding chairman for the Rice Festival Committee. We really appreciate his efforts and all the enjoyment that his efforts provide for our citizens and the people throughout the region. Mayor Young also reminded everyone about the Antiques, History and Arts Festival which will be held this Saturday in Walterboro. It starts with the Jewels and Jeans Barbeque on Friday Night at the museum. We encourage everybody to attend.

The Mayor also reminded if you are an American Idol fan that tonight and tomorrow night the finals are being televised. If you have time, please vote for and support Candis Glover from Beaufort of St. Helena Island. She is outstanding, and Mayor Keyserling of Beaufort would appreciate your support on that.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

No public comments were received on agenda items.

PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proclamation No. 2013-03, to Recognize Police Week in the City of Walterboro, designated nationally as the Week of May-12, 2013.

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas, to adopt Proclamation No. 2013-03 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor then read the proclamation in its entirety into the records. A copy of said proclamation is attached as part of these minutes.

2. Proclamation No. 2013-04, to Recognize the Colleton County High School Band of Blue Winter Guard.

Mayor Young then called to the podium to recognize the students present from the Colleton County High School Varsity Winter Guard, the Junior Varsity Winter Guard and the Colleton County Middle School Cadets Winter Guard, along with CCHS Band Director Mr. Tom Finigan, CCHS Band Director and Color Guard Instructor Mr. Stacey Miller.

The Mayor read the proclamation in its entirety into the records and presented it to Colleton County Bands Director, Mr. Tom Finigan. This proclamation is to recognize the accomplishments of the Colleton County High School Varsity Winter Guard who won the South Carolina Band Director Association Winter Ensemble State Championship in class 4A, the Colleton County Middle School "Cadet" Winter Guard, in their first time competing, who won the South Carolina Band Directors Association

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Winter Ensemble State Championship in the "Cadet" class, and the Junior Varsity Ensemble who received a bronze medal for its performance at the competitions.

A motion to adopt the proclamation No. 2013-04 as submitted was made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Buckner, and passed with all members voting in favor. A copy of said proclamation is attached as part of these records.

3. Resolution # 2013-R-04, to Support House Bills 3051 and 3052 to Address the Increase in Violent Crimes and to Make our Communities Safer.

A motion to adopt Resolution # 2013-R-04 as submitted was made by Council Member Lucas, and seconded by Council Member Lohr.

In discussing the motion, Council Member Buckner said, in an effort to address the issue of violent crime in the state of South Carolina, I think this Bill is a step in the right direction. I would, however, make a point that I believe that if a person is on bond and they commit a crime, whether it is violent or not, their bond should be immediately revoked and that person should go back to jail. This Bill addresses that. It gives the Circuit Judge the ability to make that call, but it is not an automatic. So, I am going to support this house Bill, but I would like to see a tougher language in this Bill, wherein if you are out on bond for a crime, and you commit a crime while you are out on bond, then your bond is immediately revoked and you go back to jail.

Council Member Bonds stated that as it relates to House Bill 3052, which I believe involves guns, I have no problem with that and for the record as it relates to that particular resolution, I agree with it. As it relates to the House Bill 3051, which I believe deals with the bond issue, I have no problem with the first portion of the proposed Bill. However, as it relates to the second portion, I cannot support this Bill at all with that particular language in it. It provides that "if a person who is on a bond for a violent offense, if that person commits a subsequent general sessions' offense (a general sessions' offense could be anything from night hunting to stealing cable T.V.). It could be the smallest thing. Six months of time makes it a general sessions' offense; that means that once they are tried and convicted of that general sessions' offense, the subsequent, the small one, they would get a mandatory five years in jail, and I just can't support that. Also, the way this Bill is written, if someone who is accused of a crime, commits another crime, but the first crime is dismissed (he is found not guilty, he's innocent), the solicitor drops the charges. If someone goes night hunting, they get five years, and there is no discretion for the judge. I just think that this is a one size fits all, and I cannot support the House Bill 3051 as written.

The Mayor then said, it is probably worth noting that the Senate version of this Bill has already passed, and it passed with the 5-year mandatory sentence taken out. I suspect that in order for this to pass the House that it will also be taken out of this, but it will have to go to a conference committee and be worked out. But the senate version has passed. The Mayor then read the proclamation in its entirety into the records.

Council Member Bonds then asked if there was a way to bifurcate this resolution so that he could vote in favor of H.3052? I am just asking. I would love to vote in favor of H.3052. If it's attached to both H.3051 and H.3052, I am not in a position to vote that way. I was just wondering if we could just bifurcate it?

Mayor Young then asked for further clarification of the terms "violent offences" and "night hunting" as it relates to this resolution. Mr. Bonds answered, if you are asking me what it says, in the first subsection, if you are charged with a violent crime which is 16160, but if you go down to the second part, it says if you are convicted of committing or attempting to commit a subsequent general sessions or court offense, it's by release on bond. So, what they do is they don't restrict it to a violent offense.

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Walterboro City Council
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May 14, 2013

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I don't want to take any more time, other than if we could make a motion to simply bifurcate H. 3051 and H.3052.

Council Member Bonds then amended the motion to vote on H.3051 and H.3052 separately? Council Member Siegel seconded the motion. The motion to approve the amendment to the motion then passed unanimously.

The Mayor then asked the City Attorney if Council would need to change the motion to vote on these separately or since we now have an amendment, do we go ahead and vote on them separately? Attorney Cone responded, you would just vote on them separately. Attorney Cone further stated, I don't know what wording of the amendment of the Resolution you are going to vote on, but as appropriately worded by the City Manager to endorse that act. Council Member Bonds agreed.

Council Member Lucas then asked, could we vote on it with recommended changes to it, saying that it should be "violent crime only?" The Mayor then stated, I think the idea is to support legislation that's going to do this. I think that when it works its way through the State House, I don't believe it's going to pass like it is. They are not going to allow that, I don't believe. But if you are worried about them thinking we support it as is, then that would be something to address.

Councilman Bonds then stated, I am not trying to be difficult, but I am ready to vote in favor of H.3052, but I just can't vote in favor of H.3051 as it exists right now.

Mayor Young then asked the City Manager if he could do two separate resolutions? He then asked for the vote on H. 3051. In discussing the motion, Council Member Bonds clarified that the Bill he objects to is H.3051, which deals with the 5-year mandatory minimum, no part of which may be granted probation or suspended. It takes away any discretion from the judge. H.3052 is the bill about guns, which I think is quite appropriate.

The motion to adopt H.3051 failed with a vote of 3/4, with Mayor Young, Council Members Buckner and Lucas voting in favor and Council Members Siegel, Bonds, Peters and Lohr voting against the motion for adoption.

The Mayor then called for the vote on H.3052. The motion to adopt the Resolution in support of H. 3052 passed unanimously. A copy of this resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

The Mayor then asked if the City Manager brings back a resolution which deletes the 5-year sentence, could that be brought back before Council? Council Bonds agreed. Council Member Siegel then stated, the issue is not the 5-year sentence, but the characterization of a general session offense, which is too general. Council Member Bonds answered, actually it's both. I think the fact that it is a general session's offense and it talks about violence early on. You see it's general sessions, which could be almost any offense and I am worried about somebody who again is presumed innocent, and let's assume the charges are dropped. The solicitor throws out charges and arrest eleven people, those charges are dropped, somebody ends up going hunting too late at night and if convicted of that, then they have a 5-year sentence hanging over their heads, none of which can be suspended. The fact that the judge has no discretion, and the fact that it's a mandatory minimum for any general session offense is my concern. Council Member Siegel agreed.

Mayor Young then stated, I think the intent was to get violent offenders and the way it's worded may encompass more than just the violent offender. Maybe we can do a resolution to reword it, or maybe we can wait and see how it works its way through the house.

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Walterboro City Council
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May 14, 2013

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City Attorney then stated, as I understood it, you voted unanimously to do a resolution endorsing H.3052 and a Resolution to endorse H.3051, which fails with 3 votes in favor. Mayor and Council agreed that this was correct.

City Manager Lord then said, if Council is interested we could do a Resolution encouraging them to mirror the Senate Bill language which does not have that 5-year language in it. Council Member Bonds agreed and asked if he could look at that. City Manager Lord agreed to provide a copy to Mr. Bonds.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the March 25, 2013 Special Called Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of a Name Change to Doodle Hill Park to Shaniyah Burden Memorial Park

Mr. Wayne Bennett of SC Department of Juvenile Justice appeared before Council with a request to rename the Doodle Hill Park to "Shaniyah Burden Memorial Park." He informed Council that a meeting was held with the Department of Juvenile Justice TASC Job Readiness for Teens on May 14, along with others in the community. He reported that all the members there voted unanimously to approve this name change.

Council Member Lohr commended Mr. Bennett for all the work he did with this name change request. Mr. Lohr agreed that this was a good start in changing images, which sometimes, of course, are extremely important.

A motion was then made by Council Member Lohr to approve the name change of Doodle Hill Park as presented. Council Member Buckner seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Buckner also expressed his support of the name change. He said, this is a great opportunity to have a new beginning with a new name, so that we never forget what happened. He thanked Mr. Bennett for taking the leadership in getting this done. The residents of that area will appreciate the renovation of a new park and the new change of the name of the park.

A this point, Mr. Lohr requested that the City Manager send a letter to the youth through Mr. Bennett, because that is where the idea originated.

Council Member Siegel then said, I know we have used grant funding to improve our parks, but did we ever use the name of the Doodle Hill Park in the bond issue for the improvement of these various parks. I just want to make sure that we don't run a foul on any identifying issues. Mr. Lord responded that there was no grant funding in the current approval. If there were funding used beforehand, I will have to research that. Mr. Siegel then stated that he is wholeheartedly in favor of the name change, but that he did not want the City to create some technical confusion regarding the use of those funds, if it were a condition.

The motion to change the name of Doodle Hill Park to the Shaniyah Burden Memorial Park then passed with all members voting in favor.

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May 14, 2013

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Mr. Bennett reminded Council that there is a name plaque in front of Pinckney Park. He asked if the City would also place a name plaque in front of the Shaniyah Burden Memorial Park. Mayor Young stated, we will be addressing the ribbon cuttings and dedications of the parks, when we get them completed. That will be something for us to look at during that time.

2. **Consideration of Parade Request by Mr. Horace Simmons, Action Line Against Violence**

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Buckner to approve the Parade Permit request as submitted by Action Line Against Violence for June 29, 2013. In discussing the motion, Attorney Cone asked how long would the parade last. Mr. Simmons answered that the parade will start about 9:00 A.M. and should be over around 10:00 A.M. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There was no Committee Reports given.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter an Executive Session. Council Member Bonds 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 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 7:15 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

Walterboro City Council
Regular Meeting
June 11, 2013

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at 6:15 P.M. with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: Paul Siegel, Dwayne Buckner, Charles Lucas, Randy Peters, Tom Lohr and Bobby Bonds. City Manager Jeff Lord, City Clerk Betty Hudson, and City Attorney George Cone were also present. There were 24 persons present in the audience.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Young called the meeting to order and called on Council Member Buckner to give the invocation and Council Member Lucas to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no public comments or questions received on agenda items.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Mayor then announced the following ordinances before Council for **First Reading Approval:**

1. **Ordinance # 2013-04**, An Ordinance Adopting the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and Matters Relating Thereto.
2. **Ordinance # 2013-05**, An Ordinance Adopting the City Enterprise Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and Matters Relating Thereto.

Council Member Charles Lucas, Chairman of the City Budget and Finance Committee announced that the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 is \$7,505,157.00. This includes capital improvements which are items we will purchase in the amount of \$178,400, which is paid back to the fund over time by the City. Instead of the City going out and borrowing money, we borrow our own money and this helps. He stated that revenue increases for the City Budget's operating millage for the city tax will go up 2.07%. There will be a debt millage increase of 7 mills and an unfunded mandate of 2.86 mills. He explained that the unfunded mandate is for radios that the City is required to purchase, because the County is changing to a different band of radio. In order for the City to be able to talk with the County on 911, etc., we have to change our radios also. That will be purchased through a 5-year tax. Once the debt is paid, the 2.86 mills will go away.

Council Member Lucas then explained changes to the Enterprise Budget. He stated that this budget is \$3,549,620. With this budget, there will be a revenue increase on water and sewer of 10%. The increase for the base rate water bill will be about \$3.58 on a two-month period. In the City Budget for the millage increase, this represents a little over \$47.00 per hundred thousandth on a house.

The Mayor added that these ordinances are before Council for First Reading. The Budget Committee will meet again, and then we will have Second Reading.

The Mayor then entertained a motion for First Reading Approval of Ordinance # 2013-04, An Ordinance Adopting the City Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and Matters Relating Thereto. Council Member Lucas Moved to approve Ordinance # 2013-04 on First Reading. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion.

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In discussing the motion, Council Member Buckner asked for clarification on the difference between this year's budget and last year's budget. He asked what increases, if any, that the citizens are going to be looking at paying in this new budget?

City Manager Lord answered that there will be an increase in property taxes. The summary of this increase will be about \$47.72 per hundred thousand dollars on a home, and a water rate increase of 10%. A base rate user will pay about \$3.58 bimonthly.

Council Member Buckner then asked the City Manager, why are we going to the citizens asking them to pay more money for the services we are providing? City Manager Lord answered that the services are more expensive than they were before. So, we would need to increase the revenue or cut the service. Mr. Lord added, we also have an unfunded mandate on the radios. FCC has required us to change the strength of our radios, because right now our radios can't even go into a building. So, we have to re-band, and if we are going to re-band, then we have to do what the County has to do in order to properly handle calls. This costs \$365,000. We have an increase in fuel prices and an increase in insurance prices. So, all these things cost more, and if you are going to continue to do what you are doing, then you need to raise the revenue.

Council Member Siegel then said, I am very concerned about putting an additional burden on our citizens and our businesses at this time. I realize that we have some expenses, but I really believe there is still significant trimming that we can do on the City budget. I am concerned about duplication of services between the Department of Economic Development and the Department of Tourism. I feel very strongly that even though we've had shortfalls from last year's budget, that an increase in commercial water rates and a possible increase, if we considered it, in business license fees, would be in conflict with our goal to be more business friendly. Our county, to their credit, has a very successful Department of Economic Development with a very dynamic leader. I feel that they are making a lot of progress. I really do feel that the money we are investing into our Department of Economic Development is really at this point unnecessary, in that our Department of Tourism has a fairly substantial budget. I believe that the duties that are now undertaken by our Economic Development Director could be shared between the Tourism Department and the Manager's Department. The budget for the Department of Economic Development is tentatively \$68,561, and that is a substantial amount. We have had this department for 4 or 5 years now and I have been trying to determine what advances we have accomplished through this expenditure, through this independent department. I am taking the position that we should look very seriously, at least for this year, at deleting the funding for that department, and I am going to make that motion when I have the opportunity, so that we can have a discussion over that issue.

Council Member Bonds then asked, are we going to have an opportunity to talk about this at the budget meeting on Thursday, because I have some concerns? I think we are going to have to raise taxes, I am with you. I understand the unfunded mandate. I understand that the FCC has changed the broadband frequencies and there is nothing we can do about that, and the county is moving to that by law. If we don't change, we won't be able to talk to them. I understand that, but I think we've got to look at our budget. If we are going to ask our citizens to increase taxes, I think we need to take a second look at our expenditures. Today, we are paying \$80,000 over the past 3 years for a consultant in Charleston to give us information and do different P.R. work for us. I just think we can do some belt tightening. When do we have to adopt this budget?

Mayor Young responded, we have to adopt it prior to July 1, and we have to have a public hearing and a second reading. Of course, if Council desires, we can

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make changes on Second Reading. The budget committee, which is Mr. Lucas, Mr. Lohr and myself, and of course everybody else is welcome to come, but we are going to meet again on Thursday. Those things will be discussed and suggestions also made at that time. So, there is an opportunity to make adjustments to it, but in order to meet the deadline for the fiscal year, we need to have First Reading and then look at any changes Council might want to make.

Council Member Siegel then stated, I just feel that there are areas that we could find some cutting, so we can reduce the burden on businesses and on citizens. Mayor Young answered, you can certainly bring that up at the budget meeting. I mean, we can't do that tonight. That would be the appropriate time to do it. Then, the budget committee can vote that up or down, then it will be presented to Council as a whole, and Council can vote that up or down.

Council Member Buckner, then said, I just want to go on record. I just think that government, not only local, but state and federal seem to have an insatiable diet for more and more taxpayer dollars. We just keep feeding it, and it just keeps growing larger and larger. I do believe, we need to put the government on a diet and trim back spending. So, any increase, whether it be water, taxes, property taxes or whatever, I am against it, because I honestly believe we cannot continue to feed this beast, which I am calling it government, and let it continue to spend. The more we give it, the more it spends, so I would encourage the budget committee to go back and echo Councilman Siegel's request to trim and look at tightening in other areas and not going back to the people requesting more and more of their taxpayer dollars.

Council Member Lohr responded, I agree with you Mr. Buckner, but there is just one thing. We are low on the totem pole. The federal government can print more money. Their definition of not increasing any is so that it does not go up more than 2% or 3%. If you don't believe me, check on that. So, that's one thing you've got to understand, we are low on the totem pole. I don't disagree with anything that I heard, but maybe going back and looking at it. What I don't like, and I want to make that abundantly clear is that these past 3 or 4 years, during bad times, things are still not that great but are a little bit better, but if you postpone something, we are going to be sitting here in two or three years and talking about a bigger increase or taking more money out of the reserve fund. Council Member Lohr further stated, I just want to give you a caution. I am going to listen carefully, but I am giving you a caution today on this date, June 11, 2013, that you need to understand in all likelihood that we will be discussing this same topic next time. It's fine to be against taxes, and I have never heard anybody say "I'm all for it". If I vote for this, it does not mean I like it any better than you do, cause I am going to be affected just like most of you. But, we need to really get away from the Grover Norquist idea about taxes - "we don't like them".

In response to Councilman Lohr's remarks, Council Member Siegel stated, Mr. Lohr, I am not suggesting a pledge never to increase taxes, and I believe that some increase is going to be necessary this year. I am just encouraging a harder look at our existing budget and making practical, realistic solutions that are in the best interest of our citizens.

Council Member Bonds then stated, the first thing I said is we are going to have to raise some taxes, but I think that we need to look at our budget. I agree there are duplications. There is \$80,000 here, there is this and that. I think we can belt tighten and we can try to minimize the increase, and I think that's what the folks are expecting of us. I absolutely don't think that we are not going to have to raise taxes.

Council Member Peters said, I am not for raising any taxes at this time. I am not for raising any water rates at this time. We are having a tough enough time economically in the City of Walterboro, keeping things going, and keeping businesses

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going. If we had not fought last year, the water rates would have gone up. Well, the water rates went up, and the reasoning behind the water rates going up is because we are rated at whatever rating we are compared to some of the other town and cities in South Carolina. That has nothing to do with the City of Walterboro, and what we do. Again, I think we need to look at every aspect of it, from garbage pickup to any type of service that we render and if we can cut that, these are the places we need to cut back, rather than raise taxes. You have people out there on fixed income, and they can't afford another tax. Of course, here we are, we can't afford not to tax them, but I really think we need to consider every part of it. I think we should do whatever it takes to tighten our budgets to run the city more economically. We have property out here, I don't know why we don't sell it. You say, well it doesn't cost that much, it's not going to make that big of a difference, but let me tell you, every penny makes a difference when it comes to these taxes.

The motion giving First Reading Approval to **Ordinance # 2013-04**, An Ordinance Adopting the City Budget for Fiscal year 2013-2014 and Matters Relating Thereto, was **DEFEATED** with a vote of 3/4 with Mayor Young and Council Members Lucas and Lohr voting in favor and Council Members Siegel, Buckner, Bonds and Peters voting against the motion for approval.

Mayor Young then asked the City Attorney, how will we proceed with this? City Attorney Cone answered, I don't know the date the City Manager has to turn in the millage, but the fiscal year starts July 1, and you will need to get the tax rate to the Treasurer. So, you will need to have a special meeting. City Manager Lord reminded, if we have a special meeting, we will need to have 6 days between Council meetings. So we will need to have a Special meeting for First Reading and we already have a regular meeting scheduled for June 25th.

A motion was then made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Lohr, giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2013-05, An Ordinance Adopting the City Enterprise Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 and Matters Relating Thereto.

In discussing the motion, Council Member Peters asked the City Manager if there were any surprises in the Enterprise Budget. He asked, are there any increases? Mr. Lord responded that this is the water and sewer budget with the 10% water and sewer increase.

The discussion ended and the motion giving First Reading Approval to **Ordinance # 2013-05** was **DEFEATED** with a vote of 3/4 with Mayor Young and Council Members Lucas and Lohr voting in favor and Council Members Siegel, Buckner, Bonds and Peters voting against the motion for approval.

3. Ordinance # 2013-06, An Ordinance of the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, Amending the Comprehensive Fee Schedule for the Utility Support Department.

A motion was made by Council Member Lucas giving First Reading Approval to **Ordinance # 2013-06**. Mayor Young seconded the motion. The motion was **DEFEATED** with a vote of 2/5 with Mayor Young and Council Member Lucas voting in favor. Council Members Siegel, Buckner, Bonds, Peters and Lohr voted against the motion for approval.

At this point, the Mayor stated, I hope everybody understands that we can pass First Reading on something, and then go back and change it in order to meet the time

MINUTES/Page V

line. That's what I am voting for at this point is to meet the time line, but we still have time to make adjustments. We will work that out.

4. Request to Use Pinckney Park for Back Yard Bible Club Meet July 8, 9, 10 and 11, 2013 by First Baptist Church and St. Peters AME Church

A motion was made by Council Member Peters to approve the request as submitted by First Baptist Church and St. Peters AME Church to use Pinckney Park for Back Yard Bible Club Meet on July 8, 9, 10 and 11. The motion passed unanimously. City Manager Lord announced that this event was in conjunction with the World Changers Event.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the March 26, 2013 Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Buckner and passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports given.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter an executive Session. Council Member Lucas So Moved. Council Member Bonds seconded the motion. The Mayor announced that the meeting would enter into an Executive Session for a discussion of a personnel matter on a recent employee dismissal and receipt of legal advice.

The meeting returned to Open Session, and there being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Peters and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at approximately 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

Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee

Telephone:
(843) 782-1000

248 Hampton Street
Walterboro, South Carolina, 29488-3525

Fax:
(843) 549-7725

To: Walterboro City Council

Cc: Jeff V. Lord, City Manager

From: Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee

Subject: Approvals at June 20, 2013 Meeting

Date: June 21, 2013

At its regularly-scheduled meeting held on June 20, 2013 the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee approved the following request for funding from the 30% ATAX Fund and the 65% Tourism Fund:

<u>Requests for 30% Tourism Fund</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Approved</u>
1. Walterboro Tourism Commission	\$53,000	\$ 53,000

Should this recommendation be adopted by Council, then the Walterboro Tourism Commission will remain the Designated Marketing Organization for the City of Walterboro for FY 2013/14.

<u>Requests for 65% Tourism Fund</u>	<u>Request</u>	<u>Approved</u>
1. Colleton Museum & Farmers' Market	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
2. Wings & Wheels 2013 – W.T.C.	\$ 6,500	\$ 5,000
3. Walterboro Exit 53 Merchants' Association	\$ 12,000	\$ 6,000
4. SC Artisan Center – Marketing & Promotion	\$ 13,000	\$ 12,000
5. Lowcountry & Resort Islands Tourism Commission	\$ 13,200	\$ 7,000
6. Colleton County Rice Festival	\$ 15,000	\$ 8,000
7. City of Walterboro Billboard Program	\$ 21,000	\$ 20,000
8. Downtown Walterboro Criterium 2014	\$ 21,000	\$ 15,000
9. Walterboro Rocks Advertising Campaign – WTC	\$ 46,000	\$ 40,000
	<u>\$ 148,700</u>	<u>\$ 114,000</u>

Should these requests be approved as submitted, the projected remaining balance available for 2013-2014 Grants is approximately \$ 15,700. The Committee will hold an October meeting this year and anticipates several additional funding requests. Therefore, the ATAX Advisory Committee respectfully requests City Council approve these items.

In addition to their funding recommendations to City Council the Accommodations Tax Review Committee also recommends Council "allow membership on the committee to include residents of Colleton County who own a major interest in a related business (accommodations/hospitality) located within the City of Walterboro".

City of Walterboro DMO 30% Accommodations Tax Funding Request 2013-2014

Project Name:	Walterboro "The Front Porch of the Lowcountry" DMO
Amount requested from A-tax:	Approx.\$53,000 (30% tourism funding estimate for DMO)
Organization Name:	Walterboro Tourism Commission (DMO)
Tax ID Number:	27-0473097
Contact Names:	Donna Laird Tourism-Events Director Secretary/Treasurer Walterboro Tourism Commission
Address:	242 Hampton Street Walterboro, SC 29488
Phone & fax:	843-538-4353 office 843-909-4325 cell 843-538-4356 (fax)
Email:	dlaird@walterborosc.org

Project/Event Description (narrative)

The Walterboro Tourism Commission, an I.R.S. designated 501 c (6) nonprofit organization, is a central tourism resource dedicated to increasing visibility of the tourism industry within the Walterboro area in an effort to attract crucial tourism related dollars and economic growth, as well as the development and promotion of Walterboro as a tourist destination. The Executive Committee consists of the Mayor of the City of Walterboro/appointee, the City Manager of the City of Walterboro, an appointee of Walterboro City Council (Jean Harrigal) and Tourism Director as Secretary/Treasurer. As Designated Marketing Organization (DMO) for Walterboro, we manage the 30% tourism marketing funding. In a collaborative effort, we are coordinating our advertising and marketing plan to continue the momentum and direction Walterboro has already developed as "the Front Porch of the Lowcountry"; building upon Walterboro's success in branding our city with the red rocking chair logo. *(Please see the attached summary.)*

We estimate that the 30% tourism funding will be approximately \$53,000. This accommodation tax funding provides for our comprehensive advertising campaign to improve consolidated billboard advertising, cooperative print and multimedia advertising, as well as brochure distribution and visibility.

The duration of this project is fiscal year **July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014.**



COLLETON MUSEUM & FARMERS MARKET

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. **Project Name:** Colleton Museum & Farmers Market
Reprint of Museum/Market Brochure

B. **Requested Amount:** \$1,000

C. **Total Project Cost:** \$1,235

D. **Applicant Information:**

1. Federal Tax ID: 57-6000339
2. Gary H. Brightwell, Director
3. 506 E. Washington St.
Walterboro, SC 29488
4. 843-549-2303
5. gbrightwell@colletoncounty.org
www.cm-fm.org

II. Narrative

A. **General Description**

We are requesting **\$1,000** for the reprinting of 5,000 Colleton Museum & Farmers Market brochures (see attached). The Colleton Museum & Farmers Market will pay additional printing and distribution costs. These brochures include the Red Rocker logo and the tagline "Walterboro: Front porch of the Lowcountry".

Reprints of our color brochure will help increase revenue to our local businesses by impressing upon the visitor that there are many options and locales that might invite an overnight visit in Walterboro.

The Colleton Museum, established in 1985, partnered with the local farmers market to become the Colleton Museum & Farmers Market in 2011. The partnership has become a tremendous success drawing both local, out-of-town, out-of-state, and out-of-country visitors. We are down to less than 100 brochures at present and need to have more printed for distribution to SC Welcome Centers and other lowcountry tourist attractions, lodging destinations, and restaurants.

City of Walterboro

65% Accommodations Tax Funding Request 2013-2014

Project Name: Wings & Wheels air show 2014
"Wings & Wheels" at Walterboro's Lowcountry Regional Airport

Amount requested from A-tax: \$6,500

Organization Name: Walterboro Tourism Commission

Tax ID Number: 27-0473097

Contact Name: Donna Laird
Tourism-Events Director
Downtown Walterboro Criterium Committee Member

Address: 242 Hampton Street
Walterboro, SC 29488

Phone & fax: 843-538-4353 office
843-909-4325 cell
843-538-4356 (fax)

Email: dlaird@walterborosc.org

Project/Event Description (narrative)

Wings and Wheels air show event will be held on April 11-12, 2014. Approximately 3000 people attended this show this past year and we continue to build this air show with aerobatics, skydiving, stunt plane exhibitions and demonstrations, as well as helicopter rides, displays of vintage and modern aircraft, antique automobiles and emergency service related vehicles. The Friday evening oyster roast inviting pilots, owners, car buffs and tourists to spend the night in our local hotels, as well as the added activities, will bring an even larger crowd to Walterboro. (see attached photos)

The Wings and Wheels committee is coordinated by a group of local volunteers that represent several of the local organizations, local businesses, and interested citizens.

The start and end date for this event is **Friday & Saturday, April 11-12, 2014.**

Benefit to Tourism and/or the Community

Air shows are staged all over the country and fans are more than willing to travel to watch them. Pilots enjoy taking their special aircraft to shows, while car buffs and antique lovers flock to see antique autos and planes.

**Exit 53 Merchants Association
1366 Sniders Hwy
Walterboro, SC 29488
843-538-7814**

February 1, 2013

**City of Walterboro Finance Department
248 Hampton Street
Walterboro, SC 29488**

**Invoice for A-Tax Dispersement for Funding of
Billboard to Promote Businesses of Exit 53
Interchange.....**

1 Northbound 20 X 40.....\$6800.00

1 Southbound 10 X 40.....\$5200.00

Total \$1200.00

**Please contact Ned Frownfelter, President
Exit 53 Merchants Association @ 908-0250
for any information**



South Carolina Artisans Center
The Official Folk Art and Craft Center of South Carolina
Tax ID # 57-0983458
June 3, 2013

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Project Name: SC Artisans Center - Marketing & Promotions

B. Requested Amount: \$13,000

C. Total Project Cost: \$13,000

D. Applicant Information:

1. FI# 57-0983458
2. Gale Doggette, Executive Director
3. 318 Wichman Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
4. 843-549-0011 843-549-7433 (fax)
gale@scartisanscenter.com

II. Narrative:

The South Carolina Artisans Center is the largest single tourist attractions located in Walterboro. We have established through visitor surveys that our most successful marketing tool is billboards, and specifically those located on Interstate 95. Like any other established business we would like to grow in both customer count and in sales. The Artisans Center is again requesting the support of the Accommodations Tax Committee to strengthen our visibility to tourists and visitors in our area by funding the continuation of the Center's billboards on Interstate 95. We are requesting \$13,000 to continue the lease to promote the SC Artisans Center.

A. General Project Description:

The South Carolina Artisans Center was officially designated the "Official Folk Art and Craft Center of South Carolina" by the governor. The Center was originally conceived as a rural economic tourism development project. It was determined early in the planning stages that this Center should have an economic impact upon the entire state and the project's planners proceeded to make this happen. The Center now showcases the work of over 315 artists from across the state; provides educational programming and promotes community outreach to residents and visitors alike.

Some of the major accomplishments of the Center include:

We have become a major Tourist Destination off I-95. Approximately 318,000 people have visited the Center over the past nineteen years. Over 95% of the Center's customers have traveled from outside of Colleton County and over 85% are visitors from another state. The majority of our customers have taken time from their traveling to shop and view our exhibits. They are also looking for other places in Walterboro to visit and the City of Walterboro has made downtown a wonderful place to send our visitors. We also welcome

**City of Walterboro Accommodations Tax Funds
Application for FY 2013-2014**

PROMOTION OF WALTERBORO AND THE LOWCOUNTRY

Amount requested from City of Walterboro ATAX funds: \$13,200

Total cost of project: \$504,964

**LOWCOUNTRY
& Resort Islands
TOURISM COMMISSION**

Federal ID# 57-0941807

**Contact:
Peach Morrison,
Acting Director**

**Post Office Box 615
Yemassee, SC 29945**

**(843) 717-3090
Fax 717-2888**

Email: peach@southcarolinalowcountry.com

May 31, 2013

City of Walterboro Accommodations Tax Funding Request

Project Name: Colleton County Rice Festival

Organization Name: Colleton County Rice Festival
109 Benson Street
Walterboro, SC 29488
(843) 549-1079
(843) 549-5232 (fax)

Contact Name: Jimmy Trippe/Jeffrey Herndon
Rice Festival

Federal ID Number: 57-0691134

ATAX Requested Amount: \$15,000

Project/Event Description (narrative)

The Colleton County Rice Festival is held annually during the last full weekend in April. Now in its 39 year, the festival has become recognized as a premiere springtime event throughout the Palmetto State and offers something for every age and taste. In 2014, an estimated 20,000 visitors attended the festival over the three-day weekend. The Beauty Pageant, Car Show and Boat Run starts the Rice festival on April 19th, "The Taste of Walterboro" April 22nd, VIP Luncheon on the 24th and followed by the three-day event Friday, April 25 to Sunday April 27, 2014. All permits required will be obtained by the Rice Festival Committee.

Because of the continuing success of the Rice Festival with results that sustain and promote a growing economy, an all-out effort is presently underway by various local groups and organization to encourage visitors to come into the county and city. The Rice Festival Committee Members are actively involved in many of these endeavors and are working closely with community leaders to make Walterboro and Colleton County a favorite destination of visitors throughout South Carolina and tourist motoring along I-95.

Benefit to Tourism and/or the Community

Special events and programs that enhance the quality of life make for an attractive package in enticing the traveling public to this area. Colleton County will never be heavily industrialized but can capitalize on its cultural, natural, and historic resources to bring more visitors into the County. The more visitors that come to Colleton County the more secure tourism related jobs. Increased visitors also mean increased sales and tax collections. We are strategically located on I-95 South/North Corridor and just 32 miles from I-26. These kinds of activities certainly appeal to travelers who will eat in our restaurants, stay in our motels, and shop in and about the Walterboro area.

Many food and arts and crafts vendors and participants in the Rice Run are out of state and stay overnight at the local hotels, eat in our various restaurants, and shop in several of the retail outlets. Visitors are charmed by the quaint atmosphere and are encouraged to return. We estimate that at least 120 hotel rooms will be utilized by vendors, runners and visitors.

City of Walterboro

Accommodations Tax Funding Request 2013-2014

Project Name: City of Walterboro Billboard Package 2013-2014

Amount requested from A-tax: \$21,000

Organization Name: City of Walterboro

Tax ID Number: 57-6001119

Contact Name: Donna Laird
Tourism-Events Director

Address: Welcome Center
1273 Sniders Hwy.
Walterboro, SC 29488

Phone & fax: 843-538-4353 office
843-909-4325 cell
843-538-4356 (fax)

Email: dlaird@walterborosc.org

Letter from Sec. of State: The City of Walterboro is a municipal corporation

Project/Event Description (narrative)

The City of Walterboro installed four billboards promoting lodging, shopping and dining in Walterboro along I-95 and in Jacksonboro on Hwy 17 in the Fall of 2008. We request the continuation of these billboards for 2013-2014 as they are a part of the consolidated efforts of the billboard committee and the red rocker branding. It is estimated that \$21,000 is needed to fund this project including a fresh vinyl this year.

The start and end date for this billboard contract is **July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014.**

Benefit to Tourism and/or the Community

Billboards are our most effective Red Rocker branding along the I-95 corridor. The popularity of Walterboro as a tourist overnight stop off I-95 and Hwy 17 has been greatly enhanced by our billboards. Visitors are charmed by Walterboro's quaint atmosphere and are encouraged to return. These tourists stay in the local hotels, eat at our restaurants and shop in our gift shops.

As we track visitor information logs at the Welcome Center, we note how they found us or heard of us. This tracking shows the effectiveness of this billboard program and that it works to bring both travelers from the Interstate and travelers on Savannah Highway going towards I-95 from Charleston or Myrtle Beach areas for a stay in Walterboro.

City of Walterboro

65% Accommodations Tax Funding Request 2013-2014

Project Name: **Downtown Walterboro Criterium 2014**
"USA CRITS Championship Criterium Series" (twelfth annual)

Amount requested from A-tax: **\$21,000**

Organization Name: Walterboro Tourism Commission

Tax ID Number: 27-0473097

Contact Name: Donna Laird or Dewey Griggs
Tourism-Events Director Criterium Treasurer
(Downtown Walterboro Criterium Committee Members)

Address: 242 Hampton Street
Walterboro, SC 29488

Phone & fax: 843-538-4353 office
843-909-4325 cell
843-538-4356 (fax)

Email: dlaird@walterborosc.org or dewey_fa@yahoo.com

Project/Event Description (narrative)

Olympians and professional cycling champions will compete in the **twelfth annual Downtown Walterboro Criterium on April 30, 2014**. We expect approximately 150 riders will participate in 2014's USA CRITS Cycling Series. The Masters and Category 2/3 and 4/5 amateur races, as well as the professional women's race, will bring approximately 110 additional racers to the area. The series is made up of four person teams, which compete in multi-lap races in a closed circuit about one mile long. This racing discipline requires a unique type of rider, one who must demonstrate top speed and bike handling skills traveling at 30 plus mph. Because of the circular track, criteriums are the equivalent to NASCAR and are known as America's contribution to the sport. To establish the track needed for the riders, we will need to obtain permission to close several streets in the downtown area the afternoon and evening of the race.

The Downtown Walterboro Criterium is coordinated by a group of local volunteers that represent several of the local organizations, local businesses, and interested citizens. The start and end date for this one-day event is **Wednesday, April 30, 2014**.

Benefit to Tourism and/or the Community

The popularity of cycling has been on the rise in recent years. While professional cycling may not compete against the visibility of such sports as football, basketball, or tennis, but the record-breaking success of American Lance Armstrong has increased the awareness of this endurance sport and has made it more mainstream within the United States. Races are now staged all over the country and fans are more than willing to travel to watch them.

City of Walterboro

65% Accommodations Tax Funding Request 2013-2014

Project Name: *"Walterboro Rocks!"* advertising campaign 2013-2014

Amount requested from A-tax: \$46,000

Organization Name: Walterboro Tourism Commission

Tax ID Number: 27-0473097

Contact Name: Donna Laird
Tourism-Events Director
Secretary/Treasurer Walterboro Tourism Commission

Address: 242 Hampton Street
Walterboro, SC 29488

Phone & fax: 843-538-4353 office
843-909-4325 cell
843-538-4356 (fax)
Email: dlaird@walterborosc.org

Project/Event Description (narrative)

Working together in the best interest of tourism in Walterboro, the *"Walterboro Rocks!"* advertising campaign is planned to reach difficult markets like Savannah, GA that do not cooperate with South Carolina, plus additional regional/state areas that we have not yet tapped, as well as staying with consumer trends, marketing for increased overnight stays.

The Walterboro Tourism Commission, an I.R.S. designated 501 c (6) nonprofit organization, is a central tourism resource dedicated to increasing visibility of the tourism industry within the Walterboro area in an effort to attract crucial tourism related dollars and economic growth, as well as the development and promotion of Walterboro as a tourist destination.

In a collaborative effort, our comprehensive *"Walterboro Rock!s"* advertising campaign strives to improve visibility of our successful red rocker branding program. We continue the momentum and direction Walterboro has already developed, unifying the coordination of our advertising and marketing plans.

The duration of this project is fiscal year **July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014.**

Benefit to Tourism and/or the Community

The popularity of our red rocking chair captures the attention of visitors to our area. We are confident these promotional efforts continue the economic growth for Walterboro with the influx of new visitors, residents and business owners, boosting revenue for businesses and organizations and ultimately improving our lifestyle. Clearly these coordinated efforts draw additional overnight visitors to Walterboro and extended stays in our hotels.

To track the effectiveness of this *"Walterboro Rocks!"* campaign, we utilize a number of tools, including visitor information logs at the Welcome Center, hotel occupancy data, as well as sign-in journals with various businesses and attractions.