

Walterboro City Council
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
August 27, 2013

MINUTES

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at 6:33 P.M. with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: Jimmy Syfrett, Paul Siegel, Tom Lohr, Bobby Bonds and James Broderick. (NOTE: Vacant seat remains due to passing of Councilman Randy Peters). City Manager Jeff Lord, City Clerk Betty Hudson and City Attorney George Cone were also present. Approximately 21 persons were present in the audience.

There being a quorum present, the Mayor called the meeting to order and apologized for starting the meeting late due to a previous meeting on City business. The Mayor gave the invocation and Council Member Siegel led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no comments or questions received on agenda items.

PUBLIC HEARING: The Mayor then opened a public hearing to receive comments and questions on the following proposed ordinance.

- 1) **Ordinance # 2013-08**, An Ordinance to Change the Zoning on Two Parcels of Land on Wichman Street and Neyle Street, Tax Map No. 163-12-00-161 from General Commercial District (GCD) and 163-12-00-166 from Single Family Residential (SFR) to Central Business District (CBD).

The Mayor opened the floor to hear any comments on the above ordinances. No comments or questions were received. The hearing was closed and the regular meeting began.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the August 20, 2013 Rescheduled Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Lohr, seconded by Council Member Siegel and **passed unanimously**.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance # 2013-08**, An Ordinance to Change the Zoning on Two Parcels of Land on Wichman Street and Neyle Street, Tax Map No. 163-12-00-161 from General Commercial District (GCD) and 163-12-00-166 from Single Family Residential (SFR) to Central Business District (CBD), **Second Reading and Adoption**.

A motion was made by Council Member Bonds giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2013-08. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor. This ordinance would rezone two parcels of land on Wichman and Neyle Street (Tax Map Numbers 163-12-00-161 and 163-12-00-166 from General Commercial and Single Family Residential to Central Business District (CBD).

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance # 2013-09**, An Ordinance Defining Slum and Blighted Areas, **First Reading**.

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City Manager Lord informed Council that the City had applied for some funding through CDBG for areas with economic development and business development. With this particular kind of funding, it needs to have areas designated as slum or blight. What this ordinance does is, it defines slum and blight, then between first reading and second reading of this ordinance, we will have to add some language defining the area. The area that this is intended to apply to is the South Jefferies area.

A motion was made by Council Member Siegel, seconded by Council Member Lohr giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2013-09, being: An Ordinance Defining Slum and Blighted Areas. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Consideration of Agreement to Provide Unified Dispatching Services with the City of Walterboro and Colleton County through the Sheriff's Office 911 Communications/Dispatch Center**

City Council Lord explained that this is an agreement where the Sheriff's Office, also Colleton County, in which we would move our dispatchers over into their 911 Dispatch Center. The City would gain the ability to use a computer-aided dispatch system, allowing for better tracking and analysis of calls and improving response time. It also requires that the City pay up to \$130,000 for a dispatch console next year.

A motion was made by Council Member Syfrett to approve the Agreement to Provide Unified Dispatching Services with the City of Walterboro and Colleton County through the Sheriff's Office 911 Communications/Dispatch Center. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion.

In discussing the motion, Council Member Bonds asked the City Manager if our consultant is going to address this issue at all? Is this something that they would be in favor of? Council Member Bonds further stated, personally I would be in favor of it because we need the CAD System. City Manager Lord responded, they highly recommend that the City have a CAD System.

Council Member Siegel then asked the City Manager to define and explain the CAD System, for the benefit of the public. He further stated, it is my understanding that currently we manually take down these reports and so we don't retain the actual essence of the report or recording. Mr. Lord stated, right now the dispatchers have a log that they fill out. What a computerized dispatcher allows you to do is to record from second to second when the call comes in, when the call is answered, when the call is dispatched, when the call is concluded, and a myriad of other data will be gathered.

The motion then passed unanimously.

3. **Consideration of An Agreement with Wood+Partners, Inc. For the Design of the I-95 Loop Project in the Amount of \$834,014.38**

Mr. Lord stated, this one is a long time coming. The City began the grant process for the Loop Project in 2010 and completed contractual negotiations last year before recently gaining approval from the S.C. Department of Transportation to move forward with the project. This allows us to do the entire engineering of the Loop Project at one time and then apply the match funds as you go.

Mr. Lord further explained that the City issued RFQ's for design in April of 2012. Received those and notified the most apparent qualified in June 2012 and then negotiations began, and negotiations were reviewed by SCDOT. So, that took another year. We finally have their approval. The end result is a contract approved by SCDOT, which is for \$834,014.38.

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Mr. Lord reported that this grant received by the City covers the area of the intersection of Washington Street and Jefferies Blvd. with some improvements to the Green Pond Highway as well.

The contact with Wood+Partners also covers a two-phase Loop Project which includes 18 enhancement projects making up the proposed street-scape/intersection improvements along the six-mile transportation corridor of Bells Highway and Sniders Highway near I-95 exits 53 and 57.

A motion was made by Council Member Siegel to approve an agreement with Wood+Partners for the Design of the I-95 Loop Project in the amount of \$834,014.38. Council Member Bonds seconded the motion.

In discussing the motion, Council Member Siegel pointed out that in the City's Request for Qualifications (RFQs), there is language which says, "The project will be funded in part through Department of Transportation Enhancement Funds, Colleton County Transportation Commission Funds and City of Walterboro Funds." He asked the City Manager, have we earmarked funds to apply to this project? City Manager Lord responded affirmatively. He noted that these are the Accommodations Tax Funds. Council Member Siegel then asked, are these funds we have been accumulating for some time? Mr. Lord responded, yes. Council Member Siegel then asked, so then are we in a position to go forward without any additional appropriation for this fiscal year? Mr. Lord responded that the Accommodations Tax is not a budgeted fund. So, it's not a part of the Enterprise or General Fund Budget. The Accommodations Tax and Hospitality Tax has been accruing as the City's match for these kinds of projects. Because of the assistance from the Colleton County Transportation Commission, this helps out greatly.

The motion then passed with all members voting in favor.

4. **Consideration of Separation Agreement between City Manager Jeff Lord and the City of Walterboro**

City Attorney Cone suggested that a motion to approve this agreement should include "an authorization for the Mayor to sign the agreement."

A motion was then made by Council Member Bonds to approve the Separation Agreement as submitted and authorization for the Mayor to sign the agreement. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. **Acceptance of the Resignation of Jeffrey V. Lord, as City Manager**

A motion was made by Council Member Bonds to accept the resignation of Jeff Lord as City Manager. Council Member Siegel seconded the motion. The motion was approved with a vote of 4/2 with Council Members Bond, Siegel, Syfrett and Broderick voting in favor, and Mayor Young and Council Member Lohr opposing the motion.

Mayor Young then told Mr. Lord, we appreciate everything you have done.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no committee reports given.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Lohr, seconded by Council Member Broderick and passed unanimously. The

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Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:45 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: September 10, 2013