

Walterboro City Council
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
March 13, 2012

MINUTES

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 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 14 persons present in the audience.

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

At this point, Mayor Young announced that an article on the Great Swamp Sanctuary appeared in this month's issue of the South Carolina Wildlife magazine. Issues of this magazine are available on a first-come, first-serve basis in the City Manager's Office.

The Mayor also announced that the City has been notified of a \$500,000 grant award in CDBG funds for completion of Phase II of the North Lemacks Street Revitalization Project. This is part of the Village Renaissance program that the City is doing in that area.

The Mayor also announced that about a week ago, he and Hank Amundson, Economic Development Director, attended the Department of Commerce's Rural Summit Meeting and the City of Walterboro and the City of Laurens were awarded the Palmetto Partnership Award for our work with the Department of Juvenile Justice and the After School Teen Program. So, we were really pleased to get that. It was a good recognition for our community on a statewide basis.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

No public comments on agenda items were received.

PUBLIC HEARING:

The Mayor then opened a public hearing, duly advertised, to received public comments on:

1. **Ordinance # 2012-05,** An Ordinance Establishing a Citizen of the Year Committee and Codifying the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee

No public comments were received and the public hearing was closed and the regular meeting began.

PRESENTATION:

1. **Annual Retreat Report - City Manager Jeff Lord**

City Manager Lord stated, each year after the retreat, at its first meeting, I will present the accomplishments of last year and at the second meeting, I will go over the goals that came out of the retreat.

Mr. Lord gave the following highlights of the retreat:

1. City Council reviewed the status of the 2011 projects, and identified new projects to look at in 2012.
2. Council came up with three main focus areas that they wanted to look at, and they are:

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- a. Public Safety
- b. Beautification
- c. Economic Development

These are pretty much the same as they were before. They may be phrased a little differently. Public Safety last time was phrased as crime.

3. Public Safety. We talked about improving the ISO, adding some firefighters with a grant that we have applied for, and discussed implementing a student firefighter's program. Under crime prevention, the Public Safety Department is going to look at going after CALEA Accreditation. This is an international accreditation, something like the badge of honor saying we meet this high standard. Council also talked about the City Marketing Campaign and wants staff to ensure that our marketing materials reflect diversity. We also talked about a City-wide or area WIFI for the City. Staff is to look at other funding opportunities regarding grants.

4. Beautification. The I-95 loop project has been in the works for a couple of years now. Council gave staff direction to go ahead and look at doing the plans specifications as a contract document. We looked at implementing the new gateway signage that was part of the I-95 loop plan, which is several places around the City. Other topics discussed were annexations. We talked about developing an on-line tool that people can use to go and look and say "how much will I save by annexing into the City limits".

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the February 7, 2012 Special Called Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Buckner, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance # 2012-02 (Second Reading)**

Ordinance # 2012-02, An Ordinance to Annex Certain Property to the City of Walterboro, Tax Map # 163-01-00-066 (property located at 290 Country Lane, owned by Stephen Lyons and Rebecca Lyons), was before Council for Second Reading and Adoption.

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas, giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2012-02 as submitted. In discussing the motion, Council Member Buckner asked for clarification as to whether or not this is the piece of property near the Forest Hills Elementary School. The City Manager affirmed that this is correct. The motion then passed with all members voting in favor.

2. **Ordinance # 2012-03 (Second Reading)**

Ordinance # 2012-03, An Ordinance to Annex Certain Property to the City of Walterboro, Portion of Tax Map # 179-00-00-056 (property located between Chuckle Hill Road, Smith Street and Robertson Boulevard, owned by U.S. Land and Timber, President Barnwell Fishburne), was before Council for Second Reading and Adoption.

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A motion was made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Peters, giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2012-03 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Ordinance # 2012-05 (Second Reading)**

Ordinance # 2012-05, An Ordinance Establishing a Citizen of the Year Committee and Codifying the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee was before Council for Second Reading and Adoption.

A motion was made by Council Member Buckner, seconded by Council Member Lucas, giving Second Reading and Adoption to Ordinance # 2012-05 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Proclamation No. 2012-01**, A Proclamation recognizing March as American Red Cross Month, was read into the records by Mayor Young. Ms. Nancy Olson, Communications Manager, American Red Cross in Charleston, South Carolina, was present and gave brief remarks. She assured everyone that the Red Cross is alive, well and operating in Walterboro. Since July 1, when its fiscal year began, the Red Cross has assisted over 100 residents in Colleton County, with 71 of those being residents from Walterboro. She announced that on March 22, in honor of Red Cross, the Colleton County High School will train everyone of their students in a hands-on CPR class.

A motion adopting the proclamation was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas, and passed with all members voting in favor. A copy of said proclamation is attached as part of these minutes.

2. **Consideration Designating Job Creation and Economic Development as the Top Priority of the Walterboro City Council in 2012**

A motion was made by Council Member Buckner to approve the consideration designating job creation and economic development as the top priority of the Walterboro City Council in 2012. No second was received, and the **motion died for lack of a second.**

3. **Request for Special Permission to House (2) Pygmy Goats at 523 Hampton Street in the City Limits by M. Scott Steedley**

A motion was made by Council Member Peters to grant special permission to M. Scott Steedley to house 2 pygmy goats at 523 Hampton Street in the City Limits. Council Member Bonds seconded the motion. In discussing the motion:

Council Member Lucas asked if the City had contacted the neighbors to see what their feelings were on this? City Manager Lord responded, we have not. This was a staff generated issue, and we have not taken complaints on this issue.

Council Member Buckner said, I would like to know exactly what is the rule regarding goats and chickens, and pigs. What does the ordinance say? The City Manager answered, they are not allowed unless City Council gives special permission. Mr. Buckner then said, my concern is that once we allow goats, then the next person who has a pet pig or some chickens, etc. is a slippery slope type situation. If we grant this one request, my feeling is, if you want to have these type of animals, you need to be outside the City limits. You know, we have ordinances in place so that this type of raising goats, pigs or chickens, is not

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permitted here. So, I cannot support that, because if we allow this man this instance to go through, then the next person with a request, we've got to do the same thing. So, my vote would be against it, and that's my position.

At this point, Council Member Lucas reminded Council that it has given permission for horses in Forest Hills.

Mayor Young then stated, I think these are pigmy goats, which are about the size of a dog. I rode by and looked, and from the road, I could not see any evidence. I didn't know where they were, I didn't know if they were keeping them in the house, if they had a pen or what.

Council Member Siegel then stated, I had two goats in my yard on Wichman Street as a child, and they weren't a nuisance. I think if they are pets, then that would be perfectly fine.

Council Member Lucas then said, I would be willing to approve this with the understanding that if there are complaints, then Council will take another look at this in the future, if neighbors start to complain about odors or have a problem or whatever.

Council Member Siegel then said, I move that we amend the motion. He felt that there should be reasonable conditions.

Council Member Bonds then said, do we want to make it for just the two goats that he has now? Assuming the information contained in his letter is accurate, he has had his goats for four years. He has two of them and they are the equivalent of pets, so I want to know if you want to limit it.

Mayor Young then asked, could we restate the motion to say that we approve the two goats? Council Member Bonds then said, well it says two goats, but I wonder if you want to limit it to just O.K., in other words, you only get two goats, and if one dies, do you get another one?

Attorney Cone then suggested that Council could approve the keeping of the *two* existing goats, provided that they comply with all of the sections of the City Code, and state and federal law. I don't know what else covers goats, but you have a nuisance section and a running at-large section. So, if he complies with all that, then he should be all right.

Council Member Peters then restated his motion, based on the suggestion of the City Attorney - That special permission is granted for the two existing goats provided they comply with all other sections of the City Code and with state and federal law. Council Member Bonds seconded the motion.

Council Member Buckner then said, just as a matter of caution again. If we allow goats, we will have pigs. Pretty soon, there will be folks who want to keep chickens and rosters and all of these other domesticated animals. That's why we have an ordinance prohibiting these types of animals within the City limits. Again, my argument is if you have those type of animals, then you need to be outside the City. We are a City, we are not on the out skirts, and that's why we have an ordinance prohibiting those type of animals.

Mayor Young then said, the motion, as I understand it, is to grant permission to house the existing two pigmy goats providing they meet all national, state and local requirements governing goats. **The motion then passed with a vote of 6/1, with Mayor Young, Council Members Siegel, Lohr, Peters, Lohr and Bonds voting in favor, and Council Member Buckner opposing the motion.**

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4. **Consideration of Requests by SC Artisans Center for the 2012 Walterboro Antiques, History and Arts Festival, May 18-19, 2012**

A motion was made by Council Member Lucas to grant the request made by the SC Artisans Center for the 2012 Walterboro Antiques, History and Arts Festival on May 18-19, 2012 as submitted. Council Member Buckner seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no Committee Reports given.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter into an Executive Session. Council Member Lucas So Moved. Council Member Bonds seconded the motion, that passed unanimously. The Mayor announced that the meeting would enter into an Executive Session for a personnel matter on Boards and Commission Appointments, for a discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements, and for receipt of legal advice. The meeting then convened into an Executive Session.

The Meeting returned to Open Session and a motion was made by Council Member Peters to appoint Ms. Mary Corbett for an unexpired term on the Historical Preservation Commission. Council Member Lucas seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Buckner, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:10 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: April 10, 2012