

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, September 25, 2012 at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: 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. Council Member Paul Siegel was absent. There were approximately 12 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.

The Mayor announced that Council Member Siegel was absent due to personal reasons. He also announced that former Councilman Ted Parker and former Mayor Harry Cone were in the hospital in Charleston.

The Mayor then recognized the City's new Finance Director, Mr. Bill Floyd, who was also present at the meeting. The Mayor welcomed Mr. Bill Floyd back as the City Finance Director, after being away for about 19 months. Mayor Young also recognized that Mr. Marshall Morehead, a candidate for the Office of Sheriff, was present in the audience.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The Minutes of the July 24, 2012 Public Hearing, the Minutes of the July 31, 2012 Special Called Meeting and the Minutes of the August 14, 2012 Regular Meeting were approved submitted on the motion of Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed with all members voting in favor, except Council Member Siegel was absent and did not vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Ordinance # 2012-14**, An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Walterboro to Join with the Walterboro-Colleton County Airport Commission and the County of Colleton in Granting an Easement to South Carolina Electric & Gas Company Over Property on Rivers Street Near Robertson Boulevard, TMS # 236-00-00-139, **First Reading.**

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas, giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2012-14.

At this point, City Manager Lord explained that South Carolina Electric and Gas (SCE&G) asked the City for easements (Ref. Ordinances # 2012-14 and # 2012-15) to run a new feeder line to improve their reliability by coming into the south side of town. To do that, they will need to place a pole on three properties. Mr. Lord then identified the three properties using a visual overhead map. He stated that the Joint Railroad Committee from the City and County had reviewed and recommended the approval. He stated, as you can see, the proposal is to put the poles basically right on the line of the right-of-way, so that SCE&G can run their new feeder line.

Council Member Buckner asked if the City was offered any money on the easements. He said, did we ask for any kind of refund or money for those easements, or will we just swap it out as good will? Mr. Lord noted that no monies are involved in this. He said, it benefits the increased reliability. It's going to be right on the edge, and it's not going to impact the property's use for a trail.

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The motion for approval then passed with all Council Members voting in favor, except Council Member Siegel was absent and did not vote.

2. **Ordinance # 2012-15**, An Ordinance Authorizing the City of Walterboro to Join with the County of Colleton in Granting an Easement to South Carolina Electric & Gas Company Over Property on Rivers Street Near Robertson Boulevard, TMS # 179-04-00-154 and TMS # 179-04-00-189, **First Reading**.

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas, giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2012-15. The motion passed with all members voting in favor, except Council Member Siegel was absent and did not vote.

3. **Acceptance of North Memorial Avenue, Approximately 0.02 Miles into the City Road System from the State Highway System**

Before Council was a letter request from SCDOT. City Manager Lord explained that this request was a paperwork issue that the City ran into when we were getting our permits to do the downtown project. Originally, this road (N. Memorial Avenue) belonged to the City, but when they improved it in the mid-80's, that was taken into the State system in order to qualify for funding. Then, when it was done, they took it back out of the State System to give it back to the City, but the description of what went back to the City was described as Washington Street from Jefferies to North Memorial. However, the improvements go all the way to the furthest extent of this intersection, so we believe it's always been the understanding and intent that the City was responsible for that portion. We have always treated it like ours and it always been ours as far as we know.

A motion was made by Council Member Buckner to accept the .02 Miles of North Memorial Avenue into the City Road System. Council Member Lucas seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Peters asked if any signage was involved? City Manager Lord responded no. The motion then passed with all members voting in favor, except Council Member Siegel was absent and did not vote.

4. **Request to Place Temporary Signs for 4th Annual Palmetto Classic Stride 4K Run and Walk on November 10, 2012 by Band of Blue Booster Club**

Mr. Lord reminded Council that the ordinance was changed to allow temporary signs to be permitted by Administrative staff. However, this request is for three weeks and staff is only allowed to approve permitted signs for two weeks.

A motion was made by Council Member Lohr, seconded by Council Member Buckner to approve the signage request by the Band of Blue Booster Club for a 3 week period as requested. In discussing the motion, Council Peters asked if this request would replace the banner that is normally put up by the band for the Band Classic. Mayor Young explained that these signs are for a race, not the band classic.

The motion passed with all members voting in favor. Council Member Siegel was absent and did not vote.

5. **Consideration of Request by Lowcountry International Society, Inc., to Use the City Parking Lot on December 8, 2012 for the Annual Lowcountry Goods and Arts Festival and the Annual Christmas Sweets Around the Word Event**

A motion was made by Council Member Lucas to approve the request by Lowcountry International Society, Inc. as submitted. Council Member Bonds seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0 with all Mayor Young, Council Members Lucas, Peters, Lohr and Bonds voting in favor. Council Member Buckner

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recused himself from voting on this matter, since he is a member of the Lowcountry International Society, Inc. and Council Member Siegel was absent and did not vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Council Member Lohr spoke briefly and then introduced his guest, Mr. Chris Myers, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department for Colleton County. Mr. Meyers gave a brief overview of the current recreational activities, as well as provided an update on the recreational facilities now in place in Colleton County. Using a short handout, Mr. Meyer gave a brief overview and informative description of the following areas of recreational activities currently provided by the Recreation Commission, which includes:

1) Youth Sports; 2) Adult Sports; 3) Classes; 4) Clubs; 5) Facilities and Upgrades.

Mr. Myers stated, year around we stay very busy and we have things going on all the time, whether it's for kids or adults. We are usually out there at the recreational center anywhere from 4 to 5 nights a week, plus weekends.

At the end of the presentation, Council Member Buckner stated, we have seen situations where individuals have lost their lives in the Edisto River and have always looked at trying to have some type of community swimming pool. We were hoping that the School District was going to put that in their facility, but for whatever reason that didn't happen. He then asked Mr. Meyers if there were any long term plans for a swimming pool. Mr. Meyer answered that a community pool is still being researched. He explained that when you are talking about a swimming pool for a community, it's really not a revenue generator. It doesn't make enough money to sustain itself. So, the problem we have is to figure out how to solve this, so we can make the money just to keep it going. It doesn't have to necessarily be with swimming lessons, or whatever, but what else can we coincide with that to help pay for it. One option that I have looked into is now that the Country Club is now a public facility, that's now a public pool. Once they have that up and running, there is a possibility that we might look at doing some kind of swimming lessons or something like that. We are encouraging that summer camp that I spoke about, as well as the camp that we hosted to do trips to the beach or trips to the river. We asked that they let us know when they would have the trips so that we could provide the supervision. They chose not to do anything with water this summer, but we are hoping that next summer they might have a trip like this because I think the kids are going to like it so much that it could be turned into a weekly thing as far as a camp. So, we are still looking at it, but I can't give you a final answer as to when it's going to happen, but we are definitely look at it.

Mayor Young then thanked Mr. Meyers for the information he brought to Council. He asked Mr. Meyers where could people get information on these activities? Mr. Meyers responded that persons could come to his office at the Rec Center or go to their website which is cocorec.com. We also have a facebook page, he stated. As soon as we cancel a baseball or softball game, it's placed on facebook. If a parent has LIKED US on facebook, immediately they will get an update to their phone saying the game is cancelled or it's still on.

Next, the Mayor asked if there were any public comments on agenda items. He noted that this agenda item was overlooked at the beginning of the meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

No public comments were received.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion to enter an Executive Session was then made by Council Lucas, seconded by Council Member Peters and passed unanimously, except Council Member Siegel was absent and did not vote. The Mayor announced that the meeting will convene into an Executive Session for a personnel matter and a discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements.

The meeting then entered into an Executive Session.

The meeting returned to Open Session, and there being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Lohr, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 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: November 13, 2012