

MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, January 11, 2011, at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: Dwayne Buckner, Randy Peters, Charles Lucas, Ted Parker, and Franklin Smalls. City Manager Jeff Lord, City Clerk Betty Hudson, and City Attorney George Cone were also present. Council Member Tom Lohr was absent. There were approximately 21 persons present in the audience.

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

The Mayor announced that Council Member Lohr will be absent tonight. He is still recovering from some minor surgery.

- There being no objection, the Mayor added the following items to the agenda:
- 1) Immediately following the Public Input on Agenda Items, **add:**
" III. Presentation on SCE&G Coal Ash Proposal - by Jim Addison.
 - 2) **Under Executive Session, add item No. 1 entitled, "A Discussion of Matters Related to the Provision of Services."**

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Ms. Marsha Johnson, a city resident, noted that Council has decided to use the same place for its annual retreat as used last year. She said, I find it interesting that we did not have any money in the budget for that program these children are coming in for, and you voted on it the last time. I am concerned about the fact that you are going to spend money in a frivolous manner instead of doing programs like that. I am wondering at what point, especially this year when you have to pay \$200,000 out of the contingent fund to balance the budget, when are we going to stop these frivolous spendings?

PUBLIC HEARING - It was noted on the agenda that the public hearing for Ordinance # 2010-13 was cancelled. This ordinance was dropped at the request of the prospective property purchaser.

PRESENTATION:

Mr. Jim Addison appeared before Council to speak against the proposal being submitted by SCE&G to have a coal ash dump site located between Pleasant Grove Rd. and Round O Rd. Mr. Addison said, tonight I will tell you why I believe this Council needs to look at the proposed SCE&G toxic ash landfill.

- 1) SCE&G's application says they will make this thing safe for a 25-year storm. We are overdue for a 50-year storm. There were Gracie and Hazel over 50 years ago. Safe for 25 years means it will be breached by 50 years. It's going to flow right into us.
- 2) The overreaching concern beyond the safety issues, is the economic growth issue. When economic growth and property values are depressed out in that part of the county, it affects the City. The City is the economic hull of this county. When you have lower property values and no growth in that area, it's going to mean depressed sales tax revenue for the City.
- 3) For the citizens, the quality of life is going to be affected.
- 4) All your economic activities will be affected. Your ability to attract tourism in the Great Swamp will be affected. Having a toxic waste dump near by is not going to be productive and conducive to that market for tourists.

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5) Eventually, the City is going to need to grow, and this is going to be one of the logical areas the County Land Use Plan projects will be a prime area to look for the City's growth. All that, will be called into question as to whether or not it is a toxic land or area.

Mr. Addison further stated, I believe the City needs to look at this, and we need to have a full and public debate on the issues, but we don't have time for that. Because if we make a mistake on January 27, at the County Zoning Board of Appeals, we can't correct that. Once that stuff goes into the landfill, mercury and arsenic don't go away. The only way they come out of there is if they leak into the ground. I think it was outrageous that the City was not consulted before this project was conceived and in the planning stages. I believe you desire to have some input for the benefit of not only the citizens of the City, but for citizens like me in unincorporated areas of Walterboro, who have always looked upon ourselves as being from Walterboro or part of Walterboro.

Council Member Lucas asked if there is a meeting scheduled on the 18th. Mr. Addison then announced that a meeting will be held on January 18th at St. Anthony's Church, at 6:15 P.M. There will not be a lot of long speeches. We will have discussions, questions and answers.

Council Member Buckner then asked Mr. Addison, in reaching your decision that this is a project that is not good for the county and city, did you determine if there were any benefits at all for a coal ash facility being put there? Are there any benefits at all that you saw in your research? Mr. Addison responded that time has been short and he has not fully educated himself, but I will say, I see the benefit to SCE&G because they will not have the same reporting requirements to EPA and the same restrictions that they would if we just wait and let the 10-year process that EPA has been undergoing with both parties. This is not a partisan issue and they are going to be issuing soon new regulations. The only benefit I can see for the county is that they will now be able to tax that thing as commercial. I believe that is very short-sighted. Of course, that is only for the county revenues, because you will be dealing with a minimum of 44,000 tons per year. That's just from Cannadys, which does include the count for the shipments out of state. Those roads will grumble with the heavy material. They will have to be upgraded. They will probably spend all that additional revenue on upgrading those roads. The short answer is "No," I don't see any benefit for the citizens at all.

Approval of the Minutes:

The Minutes of the November 23, 2010 Regular Meeting and the Minutes of the December 14, 2010 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Smalls, and passed with all members present voting in favor. Council Member Lohr was absent and did not vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution No., 2011-R-01 to Adopt the Municipal Association Legislative Agenda for 2011-2012**

A motion was made by Council Member Parker to adopt Resolution No. 2011-R-01 as submitted, seconded by Council Member Peters and passed with all members

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present voting in favor, except Council Member Lohr was absent and did not vote. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

2. **Acceptance of Grant Award from SC Coordinating Council for Economic Development in the Amount of \$71,000, and Approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Department of Juvenile Justice to Develop and Carry Out Same**

Mayor Young stated that this is part of the public safety initiative grant that the city has been awarded. It's a means by which we provide Juvenile Justice with funding.

City Manager Lord stated, this is part of that program that the Governor announced. It is the community safety initiative involving the economic development. It is in combination with three parts, and this is the Department of Juvenile Justice's part. It is for equipment to be used by the police department through SLED and it is also the Building Renaissance and the Neighborhood Revitalization portion. The way that this has been packaged is that the Coordinating Council is providing the match funds. So, these are no match grants for the city to do these things. The match funds are sent to the city as a through grant to the Department of Juvenile Justice. This is to expand a current program they have already when they bring youth in and help them with job skills, and this is to add 60 students to their capacity.

The Mayor then asked for a motion to accept the grant award from the South Carolina Coordinating Council in the amount of \$71,000. A motion to accept the grant award as stated was made by Council Member Lucas and seconded by Council Member Peters. The motion passed with all members present voting in favor, except Council Member Lohr was absent and did not vote.

3. **Next, City Manager Jeff Lord made the following announcement regarding Council's Annual Retreat:**

"Walterboro City Council will conduct its 2011 City Council Planning Retreat beginning Friday, January 28, 2011 and running through Sunday morning, January 30, 2011 to be held at the Wild Dunes Conference Center, Island of Palms, SC. No formal action will be taken on any items at this retreat. Any action items will be brought back to a regular Council meeting for Council's consideration."

4. **Appeal Regarding the Restrictions on the Activities of Peddlers and Transient Merchants and Business License Requirements, Mr. Sonny Heart**

Since Mr. Heart was not present, this agenda item was dropped.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no Committee Reports given.

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter an Executive Session. Council Member Parker moved to approve said motion, and a second was received from Council Member Smalls. The motion passed unanimously, except Council Member Lohr was absent and did not vote. The Mayor announced that the meeting will convene into an Executive Session for a discussion of matters relating to the provision of services. The meeting then convened into an Executive Session.

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The meeting returned to Open Session and there being no further business to consider, a motion was made by Council Member Parker to adjourn. Council Member Smalls seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor, except Council Member Lohr was absent and did not vote. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:58 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: January 25, 2011