

Walterboro City Council
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
April 8, 2008

MINUTES

A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, 2008 at 6:15 P.M. with Mayor Pro-Tem Bill Young presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Pro-Tem Bill Young, Council Members: Randy Peters, Charles Lucas, Ted Parker, Franklin Smalls and Mary Anne Cannady. City Manager Jeff Lord, City Clerk Betty Hudson and City Attorney George Cone were also present. Mayor Charlie Sweat attended the meeting unofficially.

The invocation was given by Council Member Smalls, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag led by Council Member Parker.

Mayor Pro-Tem Young then recognized and welcomed back Mayor Charlie Sweat, who was seated in the audience. Mr. Young noted, we look forward to when you are back with Council during our meetings. Mayor Sweat did not participate officially in the Council Meeting, but only attended the meeting as an observer.

PUBLIC HEARING:

CDBG Application for Pine Needle Pump Station Upgrade

This public hearing was held to solicit comment regarding an application to be submitted on April 14, 2008, to the South Carolina Department of Commerce, Grants Administration. The public hearing was duly advertised in the local newspaper. There were approximately 23 persons in attendance including Michelle Knight of Lowcountry Council of Government, who opened the hearing.

The proposed application is requesting CDBG funds to upgrade the existing Pine Needle Pump Station by replacing the 2 pumps, motors and control panels. The upgrading of this pump station will address the problems that the city is experiencing with the 2 existing pumps that are at least 40 years old and the increased possibility of an overflow of the sewer system.

Ms. Knight noted that the grant request is for \$243,250 and there is a 25% local cash match by the city, equivalent to \$61,000. The pump station currently serves 70 houses with 168 people living in those houses, and 73% or 124 of those persons are low-to-moderate income individuals. Ms. Knight then stated she would be happy to answer any questions from the public.

Mr. Charles Rowland, local newspaper reporter, asked Mrs. Knight to repeat the number of houses the pump station serves. Ms. Knight responded that there are 70 houses in the project area. It covers Gadsden Loop, portions of Red Comet Road, and portions of Pine Needle Road. This is actually a smaller subset portion of the same service area as the Robertson Blvd. Bypass Project right now, but it is just a small service area. There were no further questions and the public hearing was closed. The regular meeting then began.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of the March 5, 2008 Special Called Meeting were approved as submitted on a motion made by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Lucas, and passed with all members voting in favor. Mayor Sweat did not vote on the motion.

The Minutes of the March 25, 2008 Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously. Mayor Sweat did not vote on the motion.

PRESENTATION - UPDATE ON THE COLLETON CENTER PROGRESS:

Next, Council heard an update on the progress of the Colleton Center Project by Ms. Kathy Smith, Co-Chair of the Colleton Center Board, accompanied by Mr. Herman Bright.

Ms. Smith reported that:

- 1) The honorary co-chairs are Mr. & Mrs. Limehouse.
- 2) Since achieving nonprofit status, the Colleton Center has received over \$800,000 in pledges, contributions and grants.
- 3) The goals for phase I of the project, which have been accomplished so far, are the purchasing of the building from the school system, hiring an architectural firm "Liollio and Associates," acquiring a security system and establishing an endowment for future upkeep of the building. In addition, Mitchell Construction Company is in the process of completing an elevator for the building for access by all citizens and businesses.

Ms. Smith announced that the Colleton Center will be joining SCE&G and Palmetto Telephone in hosting "Business after Hours" on April 17, 2008 at the Colleton Center.

Ms. Smith then thanked Council for its past support and asked for continued support in helping to provide a place for residents and businesses to experience the history, arts and culture of our region, as well as providing needed spaces for businesses and civic groups, all within walking distance of downtown Walterboro.

In a letter from Ms. Bonnie Hargrove, Project Director of the Colleton Center, it was noted that in the spring of 2005, the City of Walterboro pledged a total a \$30,000 to support the Colleton Center, by agreeing to contribute \$10,000 annually for the next 3 years to the project.

Mr. Herman Bright added that the Colleton Center Project is a wonderful project and encouraged Council to go and see the dynamic work in progress. He said, we are leaving a legacy mark in history that will be around a long time. Mayor Pro-Tem Young thanked Ms. Smith and Mr. Bright for their good work on the project and stated that this will be something that the whole community will be proud of.

There was no action taken by Council. The status report was accepted as information.

PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

Next, Proclamation # 2008-01, designating July 2008 as Colleton Training/Colleton High School Alumni Month, was **ADOPTED** on the motion of Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously. Mayor Sweat did not vote on the motion. Mayor

Pro-Tem Young read the proclamation in its entirety into the records of the meeting. Said proclamation is attached as part of these minutes.

Resolution # 2008-R-03, a resolution authorizing submission of a CDBG Grant Application for the Pine Needle Pump Station Upgrade Project in the amount of \$248,000 and committing a 25% (\$62,000) in local match funds, was **ADOPTED** unanimously on the motion of Council Member Cannady and seconded by Council Member Smalls. Mayor Sweat did not participate in the vote on the motion. A copy of this resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

Resolution # 2008-R-04, a resolution to license an existing building encroachment onto the railroad right-of-way jointly owned by Colleton County and the City of Walterboro to continue on certain terms, was **ADOPTED** on the motion of Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Smalls and passed unanimously. Mayor Sweat did not vote on the motion. In discussing the resolution, City Manager Lord explained that the right-of-way in question is actually outside of the city limits. This is the old railroad right-of-way on Green Pond Road. Two Council Members, Mr. Peters and Mr. Parker, and the City Manager, are members of the Joint Railroad Committee with the county. The committee met and reviewed a request from Mr. Roosevelt Chaplin, who has a building encroaching at least seven feet over the line. His building has existed for quite some time since the 80's, which is before the easement came to the city and the county. So, the Railroad Committee voted to recommend to both councils that the encroachment be allowed to continue, provided that should the building become dilapidated more than 50%, it could be removed and should it ever be removed that it not be reconstructed. There is no liability for the two entities should anything happen in that encroachment. A resolution similar to this has already been passed by County Council. On a question raised by Council Member Smalls, City Manager Lord, affirmed that Mr. Chaplin is aware of the building's encroachment and was present at the joint Railroad Committee Meeting. A copy of the resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Rice Festival Parade Permit for Saturday, April 26, at 11:00 A.M. was **APPROVED** on the motion of Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously. Mayor Sweat did not vote on the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. Marilyn Peters, on behalf of Clemson Extension, appeared before Council with a request to use the City Parking Lot for the Farmer's Market as they have in the past. Ms. Peters informed Council that their plans are to open the market one afternoon each week between May 15 and October 31 from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. on those days. Ms. Peters also stated, we do understand we may have to be flexible regarding our exact location if there is work done on the parking lot this summer.

Council Member Cannady moved to grant permission to Clemson Extension to use the City Parking Lot for the Farmers Market as requested. Council Member Smalls seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0, with Council Members Cannady, Smalls, Parker, Young and Lucas voting in favor. Council Member Peters abstained due to a potential conflict of interest, and Mayor Sweat did not participate in the vote on the motion.

Next, a request to close certain streets for the Alumni Community Walk by the Colleton Training School/Colleton High School Alumni Association on Saturday, July 5, 2008 from 7:30 A.M. to approximately 9:30 A.M. was before Council. The walk route will be from Cougar Stadium

on South Lemacks Street to Gruber Street to Pearson Street with a left on Pearson and proceed to North Lemacks Street, turn right on North Lemacks Street to Colleton Alternative School and proceed to Colleton Middle School Campus A. A motion to approve this request as submitted was made by Council Member Peters, with a second by Council Member Parker. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Sweat did not vote on the motion. In discussing the motion, Chief Rhodes affirmed that his department had reviewed the request. He noted that the police department normally does not close the street, but places a police car unit in front and rear of the parade, and stays with the group from the stadium to the school.

Next, Council reviewed a letter from Mr. Earl E. Jackson III, President of the Colleton County Historical and Preservation Society, with requests regarding the upcoming Antiques and Arts Festival on May 16-18, 2008. The Society requested:

- 1) Permission to hang 30 banners on Washington Street and 6 larger banners on Jefferies Blvd. for 10 days preceding the Festival.
- 2) Permission to close Lucas Street from Washington to Hampton Street for 2 days of the Festival, beginning Friday evening May 16th through Sunday, May 18th.
- 3) Permission to reserve 2 parking spaces on Washington Street for the 2 days of the Festival, Saturday, May 17th and Sunday, May 18th, directly in front of the Cannady Agency. (This is where the antique appraiser will be located).
- 4) Permission to reserve 2 parking spaces for 2 days of the Festival, Saturday, May 17th and Sunday, May 18th in the City Parking Lot, adjacent for port-o-lets.
- 5) That the City turn off the waterfall on Washington Street for 2 days of the Festival for music to be provided by the Arts Council (May 17th and 18th).
- 6) Approval of a parade permit for an Antique Tractor Parade at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 17th. The parade route would start at the Colleton Center, down Hampton Street, right on Walter Street, right on Washington Street, right on Memorial Street, left on Hampton Street and end at the Colleton Center.
- 7) Permission to place event direction signs where appropriate in the city during the 2 days of the Festival.

Mr. Earl Jackson, also present at the meeting, stated he would be glad to answer any questions by Council. He added that they did not include the Farmer's Market. He stated, they certainly will be open during the festival, too.

A motion was then made by Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Peters to approve the requests as submitted by the Colleton County Historical and Preservation Society for the 2008 Antiques and Arts Festival. In discussing the motion, Council Member Peters asked if the request concerning the banners was the same as last year's request. Mr. Jackson responded that the banners will be a little larger this year, so they will be more visible to the public. The 30 original banners to hang on Washington Street will be the existing ones used last year. The Fire Department will put those up for us. The larger banners will be erected on Jefferies Blvd. for better visibility by the public. City Manager Lord asked if the banners to be erected on Jefferies would be wider. It was noted that the banners are not much wider, but are taller. Mr. Lord noted that the banners we now have occasionally get hit by vehicles on Jefferies Blvd. It was agreed that the banners would be angled or turned toward the sidewalk.

Mr. Jackson emphasized the Antique Tractor Show. He said this event would be an interesting attraction to the Festival.

The motion passed with all members voting in favor, except Mayor Sweat did not participate in the vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Report on NLC Meeting held in Washington, DC by Council Member Cannady.

Council Member Cannady handed out a copy of her report. She reported that the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference was held in Washington DC on March 8-12, 2008. She stated that the meeting covered a range of important national and hometown issues affecting the citizens of Walterboro.

Our NLC President, Council Member Cynthia McCollum said, "Regardless of the outcome of the 2008 elections, the road to the White House runs through America's cities."

Conference speakers included House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), along with other national leaders, including Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), House Majority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC), and House Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank (D-Mass.). Other speakers included Mark Shields, political analyst, "The News Hour with Jim Lehrer, and Donna Bazile, CNN political analyst.

Council Member Cannady also reported that while in Washington, Walterboro City Council Members attendees visited Congressman Brown's staff and met personally with Congressman Jim Clyburn and Congressman Joe Wilson. She stated this was really a very good meeting.

Council Member Smalls added that he attended one of the breakout sessions at the NLC Meeting. This session was on youth violence. He stated that each city attacks this problem from a different angle. Two important items he obtained from the session: 1) The Police Department is not always at fault. There is much blame put on the Police Department. 2) If you want to make progress on the problem of youth violence, then you have to involve the whole community. This is a key to making an improvement in the community.

A motion to enter an executive session was then made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously. Mayor Pro-Tem Young then announced that the meeting will enter an executive session for a contractual matter and discussion regarding the development of security personnel, also a discussion of an appointment.

The meeting then entered an 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, motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Parker and passed unanimously. The Mayor Pro-Tem adjourned the meeting at 7:39 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 22, 2008