

Walterboro City Council
Special Called Meeting
Tuesday, May 31, 2005

MINUTES

A Special Called Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, May 31, 2005 at 6:15 P.M. with Mayor Harry Cone presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Cone, Council Members: Bill Young, Johnnie Thompson, Charlie Sweat, Ted Parker and Mary Anne Cannady. City Manager Tuck McConnell, City Clerk Betty Hudson and City Attorney George Cone were also present. Council Member Franklin Smalls was ABSENT.

There being a quorum present, Mayor Cone called the meeting to order and gave the invocation. Council Member Parker led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

Before starting the meeting, the Mayor took the opportunity to congratulate Council Member Franklin Smalls, who has announced he will run for the vacant seat of Council Member Sweat. He stated that Councilman Smalls has served on Council for 16 years, he is a good man and I believe he'll do a good job. The Mayor also said, he is an honest man. When he tells you yes, he means yes. When he tells you no, he means no, and he won't tell you maybe. He stated, I think he will make a fine Council Member.

Next, the Mayor announced a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed annexation of certain properties on SC Highway 63 (Sniders Highway) to the City of Walterboro. In discussing the annexation, Council Member Thompson asked if the Green Acres Campground was included. City Manager McConnell responded that this campground was not involved and was not contiguous to the city. He explained that the annexation starts at the Highway Department on the left side of the road and stops at the last motel. It comes back down on the other side of the road and stops at Carolette Drive. He further pointed out that the annexation stops at the Holiday Inn Express on the right and at the other two hotels on the left. Further discussion was held on whether the Green Acres Campground was contiguous. Attorney Cone explained that according to the annexation map, it was not contiguous. City Manager McConnell again emphasized that the campground was not part of the proposed annexation. City Manager McConnell also pointed out that parcel no. 152 is Coastal property, where they plan to put a truck stop. Across the street, is property owned by a church. No further comments were received, and the hearing was closed.

The Regular Meeting then began. There were no Minutes and no Old Business before Council.

Under New Business, a motion was made by Council Member Sweat to accept the annexation petition submitted to annex certain properties on SC Highway 63 (Sniders Highway). Council Member Parker seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor. Council Member Smalls was ABSENT and did not vote.

Next, a motion was made by Council Member Cannady giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2005-03, being; AN ORDINANCE TO ANNEX PROPERTY TO THE CITY OF WALTERBORO, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 5-3-150 OF THE CODES OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED. Council Member Sweat seconded the motion that passed unanimously. Council Member Smalls was ABSENT and did not vote.

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Last under New Business, a letter was received from Mr. Chris Bickley, present on behalf of the Lowcountry Council of Governments, requesting the City's participation in a regional affordable housing program. This program will allow the four local governments (Hampton, Jasper, Beaufort, and Colleton) to join together to access annual funds of \$874,000 to promote affordable housing projects in their areas. Highlights of the program are as follows:

- 1) Requires a local match of 12.5%, which HUD has agreed to lower from the maximum 25% match requirement. Prorated by population, Beaufort County's annual match will be \$56,000, Colleton's \$19,000 and Hampton's and Jasper's \$9,000 each.
- 2) As the largest jurisdiction, Beaufort County will serve as the lead agency and the program grantee to receive HOME funding on behalf of the consortium.
- 3) Initial commitment to the consortium is for a three-year term.
- 4) Program activities will start 6/06 or 7/06.
- 5) The Lowcountry Council of Governments (LCOG) will administer the program, and the LCOG Board will serve as the consortium governing body.

A motion was made by Council Member Sweat, seconded by Council Member Young to adopt the resolution, as submitted, establishing and agreeing to participate in the Lowcountry Regional Home Consortium. The motion passed with all members voting in favor. Council Member Smalls was ABSENT and did not vote. (A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes). In discussing the motion Mayor Cone stated this program does not cost the City of Walterboro any monies, the counties are responsible for the local match funds. Mr. Bickley pointed out that only the City can bring in the city limits into participation of this affordable housing program. The county, under HUD regulations, can only commit unincorporated areas. Any municipality that wishes to participate must do so on its own.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Young, seconded by Council Member Sweat and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:35 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