

Walterboro City Council
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 23, 2005

MINUTES

A Public Hearing and Regular City Council Meeting was held at Walterboro City Hall on Tuesday, August 23, 2005 at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Charles H. Sweat, Jr. presiding.

PRESENT WERE: Mayor Charles H. Sweat, Jr., Council Members: Charles Lucas, Bill Young, Johnnie Thompson, Ted Parker and Mary Anne Cannady. City Manager Tuck McConnell, City Clerk Betty Hudson and City Attorney George Cone were also present.

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

Mayor Sweat welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced a public hearing on Ordinance # 2005-07, An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 15, Solid Waste Management, Article I, Section 15.103 of the Code of Ordinances. Public Works Director Charlie Chewing explained the details of the ordinance. He stated the ordinance was mainly concerned with the pickup of debris. He explained that the city would have to charge for pickup of construction or demolition debris due to the fact that the county has increased its charges to dump at the landfill. No other comments were received and the hearing was closed. The regular meeting then began.

The Minutes of the August 9, 2005 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Thompson and passed unanimously.

Under Old Business, Ordinance # 2005-07 was given Second Reading and Adoption on the motion of Council Member Lucas, seconded by Council Member Cannady and passed unanimously, being; AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 15, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT, ARTICLE I, SECTION 15.103 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES.

Next, the City Manager reported that the City advertised for persons interesting in serving on the Accommodations Tax Board, but no letters of interest had been received. However, the suggested list of candidates had been contacted and had agreed to serve on the board.

A motion was made by Council Member Cannady to make the following appointments to the Accommodations Tax Board with the initial terms of

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the members from the lodging area serving 3 years, the hospitality area serving 2 years and the cultural and at-large areas serving 1 year. Reappointments to the board would be for a 3 year term.

Geeta Patel	Lodging - 3 year term
Jackson Hughes	Lodging - 3 year term
Leon Langley	Hospitality - 2 year term
Bruce Wimberley	Hospitality - 2 year term
Alta Mae Marvin	Cultural - 1 year term
Susan McConnell	At Large - 1 year term
Phillip Taylor	At Large - 1 year term

Council Member Parker seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

Under New Business, First Reading of Ordinance # 2005-08, An Ordinance to Amend the Business License Ordinance, was before Council. City Manager McConnell stated that staff sent Council a proposed amendment to the ordinance and Attorney Cone also sent a copy of Greenville's ordinance which says basically the same thing. He stated Council might wish to have more time to look over the two proposals. Attorney Cone added that Council might wish to look at exempting charitable, educational and religious organizations from the peddler's statutes. He pointed out that the Greenville ordinance was a little more comprehensive. He and the City Manager would get together on this matter, but would like some input from Council. A brief discussion was held. Council Member Cannady pointed out that non-profits organizations do not have to purchase a business license.

Attorney Cone clarified that sales by girl scouts organizations entering establishments would not be allowed, unless permitted by the merchant, under the proposed ordinance as written. Council Member Young stated he was in favor of school children being able to raise funds for opportunities they would not otherwise have.

A motion was made by Council Member Thompson, seconded by Council Member Parker, giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2005-08. In further discussing the motion, Council Member Young stressed the importance of students being allowed to enter establishments for fund-raising. Chief Rhodes pointed out that a person does not have to get a license for a fund-raiser. What we are concerned with are those persons coming in to town selling their merchandise. Further discussion was held on profit and non-profit organizations. Mr. Gary Davis pointed out that his store supports fundraisers by charitable organizations, but they do not support people selling their merchandise in his store.

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Mayor Sweat stated he believed it was the consensus of the group to look out for the local organizations. He requested that the staff work on this item and bring it back to Council for consideration.

The motion then passed with Council Members Lucas, Thompson, Parker and Mayor Sweat voting in favor. Council Members Cannady and Young did not vote on the motion.

Next on the agenda was a discussion of Parking Tickets Fines Increase. City Manager McConnell reported that Court Administration noted that the increases would not apply to timed violations, such as marked tires, parking meters, but it would apply to parking on a yellow line, loading zone, handicapped violations, etc. He stated when this matter was first presented, staff was concerned that parking tickets would increase in price. However, it was noted by the Court Administration that timed violations of any description would not be included with the \$25 flat charge and the 100% add-ons, but it would apply to other violations. Chief Rhodes pointed out the violations that would apply for the increased charges are: wrong side of the street, double parking, parking in restricted zone, blocking a drive way, yellow line, parking by fire plug, and parking in restricted fire zone.

A discussion was held on the parking on Memorial Street.

City Manager McConnell stated that staff had looked at exempting that street from the parking ordinance. Two parking spaces could become a loading zone only. This would not be dangerous when a car pulled in, as the driver would have a clear view down the street, as opposed to pulling out and having the driver's view blocked. Attorney Cone agreed it would adversely impact two businesses if the two parking spaces were removed. Attorney Cone spoke briefly on the liability exposure for the city for having the two parking spaces on Memorial Street.

Concluding the discussion, it was the consensus of Council that staff would come back with suggestions on this problem.

As an add-on agenda item, Mayor Sweat stated that County Council had adopted a resolution supporting the widening of Highway 64 versus the widening of Highway 17. He then opened the floor for any comments. Council Member Thompson stated this matter was not new. The widening of Highway 64 has long been a priority of City Council. He stated he is 100% in favor of this project.

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A motion was then made by Council Member Thompson to endorse the Resolution passed by County Council supporting the widening of Highway 64 from Jacksonboro to Walterboro. The Resolution as passed by County Council with the sheet attached identifying the advantages of this project is made a part of this motion. Council Member Parker seconded the motion that passed unanimously. Copy of said Resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

Mayor Sweat then stated that Council had received paperwork regarding the issue of increasing towing charges. Since Council just received a report from the Police Department on this matter and in order to give Council more time to study the matter, this item would be carried over for discussion at the next meeting.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Cannady, seconded by Council Member Lucas and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6:50 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