

Walterboro City Council
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
May 11, 2010

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A Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 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, Franklin Smalls and Tom Lohr. City Manager Jeff Lord, City Clerk Betty Hudson, City Attorney George Cone and Attorney Ashley Amundson were also present. There were approximately 53 persons present in the audience, of which a large number were present on behalf of the newly formed Hampton Street Crime Watch group.

There being a quorum present, the Mayor called the meeting to order and Council Member Smalls gave the invocation and Council Member Peters led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

There being no objection, the Mayor presented an additional item for the agenda, under New Business, entitled, "A Request for Street Closing for Saturday, May 15 for the Law Officers Memorial".

PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Mr. Gary Davis, a city resident, asked what streets would be closed during the Law Officers Memorial event. Mayor Young told him that the committee is asking the city to close Hampton Street from Jefferies Boulevard to Walter Street and Walter Street from Washington Street to Hampton Street.

Ms. Janet Sawyer, on behalf of the local chapter of the NAACP, made the following comments in regard to the proposed City of Walterboro Comprehensive Plan.

- 1) This was a superb job done by the City. It obviously took a lot of hours.
- 2) It was noted that the black community is decreasing in population while the white population is increasing. Ms. Sawyer asked if there was a reason for the decrease in the black population. She asked if the decrease in the black population was due to the older people dying off and not being replaced or by younger people who have graduated from high school or college moving away.
- 3) Under the affordable housing section, it was noted that City Council said they were going to try to do something to allow renters to actually afford a two bedroom apartment, because according to the plan, in 2008 a housing analysis found that 49 percent of renters could not afford a two bedroom apartment. What could City Council do to make rents more affordable in Colleton County that would be legal?
- 4) Under land use, I noticed that the City is going to impose impact fees on a developer. My question is: "Has the South Carolina legislature enacted the required enabling legislature to allow you to do this?" If it hasn't, then you are dead in the water on that.

Concluding, Ms. Sawyer again commended on the great job with the plan. It is too bad that you had to work with such old data. It could have been better if you had 2010 census data to work with. That would have been really helpful, though I understand it takes years to develop one. I would like some answers to those questions.

Dr. Lori Campbell questioned why she was not allowed to address an issue at a Council Meeting due to the fact that she owns a business, works a lot and can't get to the Council Meetings all the time. She asked, when am I supposed to be able to

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comment if I can't get to these meetings because I am working.

Mayor Young then stated, you can always ask to be placed on the agenda, and you can come to the Mayor's Round Table, I am there the third Tuesday of every month. You can also call me personally or call any of the Council Members. If you have a question that's in anyway related to the agenda, we would certainly hear it.

Dr. Campbell then said, it's related to the budget based on the article that I read in the newspaper. Mayor Young stated that Council will be addressing the budget and there will be an appropriate time to ask a question about it before the budget is passed. Dr. Campbell, then said, it would be appropriate, it's just that I may be working. Mayor Young further stated, if you get the question to me, I will try to get you an answer.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Ordinance # 2010-06

The Mayor then announced a public hearing duly advertised to receive public comments on Ordinance # 2010-06, An Ordinance Adopting the 2010 City of Walterboro Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Gary Davis then asked for a short synopsis of the plan. City Manager Lord noted that the new Comprehensive Plan is available on the City's website and copies are available here at the meeting tonight.

Council Member Smalls then responded to Ms. Sawyer's question about the decrease in the black population. He said, with regard to the reasons you gave, it is some of both the reasons given. Some kids are graduating from school and some do not return after they graduate. They go other places and seek jobs. There is an increase in the older population that is dying out, and a few of the older population leave Walterboro and live with a daughter, a child or another relative.

Ms. Sawyer then stated, the thing that absolutely astonished me was the fact that the plan mentioned that the City was not going to make any attempt to develop a storm water runoff plan. There was good reason for this in some cases, but my thought was that if anybody is sitting in the Waffle House at the northern exit of I-95 and there is a rain storm, you will see the cars coming along in the right- hand lane looking like a boat coming out the water from all the spray, and this is all over the roadways. I know this happened in Beaufort County, the storm water runoff plan was not in effect and a full development couldn't get out of their house. It was so much water. I don't know the geographical or the topography of Walterboro, but if that's the case and if there is a lot of low lying areas here, I would think that the City definitely needs a storm water runoff plan, because that could be very dangerous.

REQUESTS FOR APPEARANCE: - Barry Stephens - Danny Riddle and Travis Godley - Regarding Crime in the Hampton Street Area.

The Mayor asked the three speakers to limit their comments to around 3 minutes.

Mr. Danny Riddle, a resident on Hampton Street, opened by thanking City Council for the opportunity to let us all come here. He thanked the City Manager, the Chief of Police and all the people in Public Safety for helping to keep Walterboro a safe place. He stated, everyone is aware of the crime that's been going on and the shootings and break-ins. Last week, we had a meeting at the Blarney Stone. We are going to form a neighborhood crime watch and I have been elected to be the captain

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of that Crime Watch. We will have another meeting at the Blarney Stone, next Wednesday, May 19, at 6:00 P.M. Mr. Riddle stated, I won't come in here tonight and start filing complaints, I don't think this is the time to do that. I think we can do that at that meeting. There is a particular time and a particular place to have those types of meetings. I wanted everybody to know that if you need me, call me. I think everybody is concerned about both of those problems. Walterboro is a great town. It's going to continue to be a great place to live, because we are going to fix it. Things take time. It takes time to have meetings, it takes time to organize and it is a process. I think that a Crime Watch is nothing more than a partnership with the local police department, because they can't do it all. They don't have the manpower. If you see something out of the ordinary, pick up the telephone and call the police department and tell them you think the guy across the street doesn't need to be there. It doesn't matter whether he is there for a reason or not, if they show up, they have done their job. Then, keep the pressure on and I'll promise you in the near future, a lot of this is going to subside. Trust me, we'll make it work.

Mr. Barry Stephens, a Hampton Street resident and member of the Crime Watch, told Council he was asked to talk tonight about how the crime has affected him personally. I don't want to get into a lot of crime issues, because when it affects one of us, it affects all of us. We need to all come together with the police department and help fight this crime. I don't want to get into a bunch of negative stuff, but one of the things I want to bring up is that I had a big tool trailer stolen in the city limits. A county police officer pulled them over and it ended up being a big problem with whose jurisdiction it was in. Nobody really could ever come up and say, it's in our jurisdiction. The county pulled them, it was in the city's jurisdiction, but then it went back to the county after the city closed their case. To make a long story short, I had to pay \$400 or \$500 to get my trailer back. The county sheriff pulled them at 3:00 A.M. because sparks were flying. They were pulling my trailer with a vehicle that was entirely too small. Maybe, a suggestion would be - why can't the county sheriff's department pursue crime in the city limits and why can't they charge someone. The guy ended up getting off pretty much scotch free, sold the trailer, went to jail for driving without a license, was out the next morning and nothing ever came up, except for me having to make them pay to get my stuff back. Is there something we can do to allow the county to come inside our jurisdiction and that increases our manpower? We moved to the City of Walterboro, we love it, we want to raise our family here, we believe in Walterboro. We want to make it a better place. By being in this Crime Watch, and all of us coming together, we can all be a community again, and help each other and watch each other's back. Instead of getting a security system that I would have to pay \$35 a month or \$500 a year, I would not mind paying a one-time fee to have some security systems put in at the city parking lot. If we need somebody manning the phones 24/7, why can't they be watching a teleprompter. Just a suggestion. I would be happy to pay a fee or a one-time fee or a small tax every month to have some security in our city parking lots or library parking lots up and down Hampton Street and some of these other streets.

City Manager Lord commented that the Sheriff's Department has jurisdiction in the city.

Mr. Travis Godley, a resident on Hampton Street, then addressed Council. He opened by thanking Mr. Riddle for volunteering as captain of the Crime Watch and thanked Sgt. Chapman and Major Dasen for coming to their Crime Watch organizational meeting.

Mr. Godley then said, I know that several of you were there, but I want to recap a couple of things just so those who were not there, might understand where we are coming from on this.

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We have had some crime in the area and we are trying to organize. We are not just organizing the Hampton Street, but we are utilizing the area from Wichman Street over to Carn Street and from Jefferies Boulevard over to Robertson Boulevard. It's a large area, but we are trying to contact all persons in that area and organize a crime watch. While I thank all of these people for coming out and doing these things, I will admit that the meeting we had on Wednesday got far flown and brought up some issues that probably are vague and I will not try to repeat all those here. I do have one controversy and that is: "We were informed at the meeting by the police that we should **not** call 911 in the case of an emergency, but that we should dial 549-1811 to come directly in to the dispatch of the Walterboro Police". Now, that did not seem right at the time and since then I have heard that is not right. It was false information. Now, I will tell you that a lot of our people immediately began reprogramming their phones to speed dial 549-1811 because I saw it done in the meeting. Now, we need to get that corrected. Now, there is one of two problems here, and you have the responsibility for correcting this. If 911 works the way we were told that the message goes to the county, the county asks the questions and then transfers you to the city for you to repeat that information again - that's not working - that's not the way it should work. But if that is the case, then you as a City Council and the County Council have to come together and make it correct. You have to give instructions to administration on how and what your expectations are. On the other hand, I have been told that this was done some time back and it does work today, that when you dial 911, it goes to the county, and if it is a city problem, the county dispatch will dispatch the Walterboro Police. Now, if that's correct, fine and good. But we still have a problem. It's evident that the police officers do not know that is the way it works. So, therefore, it is incumbent upon this City Council to make sure that administration is instructed to make sure the communication lines, and communication network among your police officers is such that they understand how it works and that all this information will not be submitted out to people. So, that's the one item that I really want to bring forward.

Again, I say, you know, we have some problems, so we have to overcome. The problem we have to overcome in our area is that there are a lot of people who do not trust the Walterboro Police Department, for various reasons over the years. The most recent, though, has occurred since we had our first meeting of the organization of the crime watch. The lady could not be here tonight, but she has provided a letter which I will provide copies to everyone and I'd like to read it. It reads as follows:

"To the Members of City Council: On the night of May 6, approximately 10:45 P.M., I was awoken by a loud noise on my front porch. I went to see what it was and there was a person on my front porch peering through the window. I ran back to my bedroom and telephoned the Walterboro Police Department at 549-1811. I told the dispatcher my name, address and what happened. She stated an officer would be sent to my house. A few minutes, my dog started barking at the back door. I let my dog out and saw two men run through my yard. I again called the police, telling the dispatcher what happened, and she stated that they were on their way. I waited another 20 minutes - the police never came. I had already called the police twice. I was frightened, I live alone, I went to bed with my hunting rifle loaded next to my bed, I did not sleep very well that night. I telephoned Chief Rhodes the next day, explained the situation and inquired why the police never showed up. Chief Rhodes said that he would find out and call me back. Chief Rhodes telephoned back saying they had caught the person. It was an individual that was drunk and at the wrong house. He also stated that he had put my house on a watch list, which I am grateful for. My question is how do I know that they caught the individuals at my house? The police never came to my house to ask a description of the people. The police could not possibly have caught the people as there were two people in my yard and Chief Rhodes only mentioned one person. Also, why didn't an officer come by, not only to get a description of the people, but to make sure I was not hurt, that nothing had happened

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to my home. There is something very wrong with our system in the City of Walterboro, and I now feel a victim of this system. I do not feel that I may call on the police as they will not respond. I would like to feel safe in my home and also I feel in danger. I would like to think that I can rely upon our Police Department. At this time, I do not feel any of this, and I would like to see changes made to protect myself and the rest of our community”.

Mr. Godley, then said, I am sorry it took so long to read that but I wanted to make sure that it got to each one of you. I will tell you the people on our street have been victimized through a very traumatic event and they are traumatized and will be so for the rest of their lives. We need to see some action. I will take exception with Mayor Young - We have not seen a decrease in crime that he states in the Post and Courier. In addition, we have asked the City and we were told we could get crime statistics and today we were told those statistics do not exist. So, I don't know, Mayor Young, how you managed to deduce a reduction when Chief Rhodes tells us he cannot supply us the information. We would like to see a clear concise explanation published of what crime is, where it's been, where it's going and what you, the City Council are going to do. You have some good points, you came back from your retreat, put Public Safety as number 1, but we haven't seen that plan. The 10 point plan has some great points about utilizing the Youth Advisory Committee, but it has taken forever to develop that committee and it still hasn't gotten off the ground. We need to see that. We have a lot of young people who do not have things to do in this city except walk the streets and that seems to be, (and I don't have the statistics), where our problem is with the young people. So, I encourage you tonight to discuss among yourselves and figure out how to activate this Youth Advisory Commission. I suggest you come up with very concrete plans and I please ask you and beg you, to be open and tell us and please do not try to cover up the problem.

Mayor Young stated, I think what I said in the Post and Courier was that there has been a decrease in violent crimes, I believe that is what I said and I think we have the statistics to stand behind that.

The Mayor then asked the City Manager, if he or Chief Rhodes would like to address any of the comments made.

City Manager Lord stated, obviously we'll look into the letter. On the statistics - those are available on the FBI website. We report those every year. As public information, everybody can see it and I can also provide it to you.

Mayor Young said, as far as the Youth Advisory Commission - the reason it's taking so long to get it going is because we have had to wait on people to volunteer and we have had to call the different categories that fill those positions, a number of times to ask them to recommend people to represent their groups. We are working on it, and we will work on it some more tonight.

The Mayor then recognized Council Member Buckner. Council Member Buckner stated, first of all, let me just say, it's great to see everyone come out tonight, because it is an opportunity to see how your government works and this is your government. It seems to me sometimes, that I get the feeling that it is us against you guys. No, we are all in this together, this is our town. That's the point that I want to make. In Summerville and Charleston, I'm not going to say they don't care about us, but we have to care about our own town. This is where we make our living, this is where our businesses are. This is where we live and this is where we play. So, this is our town. And I just wanted to make several points. Number one, when I ran for City Council, the main issue one year ago was not crime. Crime was not a major issue in the City of Walterboro. The main issue was that there is nothing for the youth in the community to do. That was the main issue and I ran on that issue because I care

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about the young people and wanted to see something done. As a result of the youth not having anything to do, crime now is an issue in the City of Walterboro, and it has given us a black eye in the community - that these youngsters are starting to commit crimes. How do I know that. Well, number one the gentleman who had the battery and assault at the post office. That crime was committed by a 16 year old, and he has been arrested but there is no conviction. The other assailant that was with him was also a juvenile. Moving on a little further, the incident that we had with the drive-by shooting - triple homicide. From my understanding, that was also committed by an individual under the age of 20 years old. The list goes on and on. The burglary, from my understanding, the one that was reported in the Press and Standard, we caught that individual that broke in on, I believe it was Chapman Street, he also is a juvenile, I mean a youngster under the age of 20. So, if you look at the facts, the facts suggest that the youngsters who have nothing to do are walking around and now they are breaking into houses. So, we address that issue by creating the Youth Advisory Commission and that Commission was charged to try to deal with this issue. I made a commitment when I ran for office that we would hopefully make a sizeable investment in the youth which is the future of the City of Walterboro. Now, we are no longer associated with the Walterboro-Colleton Recreation Commission. You know the City is no longer into that. We have severed ties with the county. The county is doing their own recreation and in the City, we are handling our parks that are within the city. From my understanding, that's a budget of \$60,000 that we were putting toward that effort, jointly between the county and recreation. So, my thing is, the youth advisory commission needs some teeth. It needs funding, it needs money, we need to address this, so that they can begin their work and look for grants and look for programs and after school activities in order to keep the youth off the streets and doing something positive. I would rather see them doing recreation than breaking into somebody's house. I appreciate everyone coming tonight, we are going to address these issues and from what I am understanding the issues are: better cooperation between the county and the city, the crime issue, trust and I want to make sure that whatever statistical data that's available is made available to the public. I am glad that the City Manager is letting you know that information is on the FBI website, but if you request information concerning the statistical data on crime, you should be able to get that information, because that information is public. We are doing all that we can to solve this problem and we are going to have to work together in order to be able to do it.

Mayor Young then stated, I want to thank everybody that is responsible for the Crime Watch. I think that's a great thing. I think it's going to help us and that's the main thing that we can join together with our Police Department and with your help, we'll make a dent in this. I can assure you that everybody who is sitting up here is just as concerned as you are. I've dealt with this almost every day since November, since we've had the shootings and nobody is more concerned than this Council. I believe that we've impressed upon our public safety officers how concerned we are and I believe that we have good public safety officers and that they are working very hard to put an end to this. The good news is that the person who was breaking in homes in the Hampton Street area was apprehended in the act and I believe it was the result of the practices put in place by our public safety department. That does not mean there is not always going to be room for improvement and we certainly want to improve. We are going to keep trying, we are going to keep working to make Walterboro a safer place. I can promise you that and I think if you talk to our public safety officers - to a man or a lady, they will tell you that nobody is more frustrated than they are when things like this happen in our community. You know, we all are going to have to work together to make this happen. Again, Ms. Jeanine Rhodes, I want to thank you for organizing the crime watch in your neighborhood. We are here to help you, we are on your side and we are going to get the job done. We are not going to just talk at it, we are going to get it done.

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Council Member Buckner then stated, again, we want to make a sizeable investment in the youth of the community, and so we have just heard from our Mayor that we are committed to this, and so I am going to ask this Council on this. I make a motion that we take \$10,000 out of fund balance and put it towards the Youth Advisory Commission as seed money in order to be help deal with the youth issue in the community.

There was no second. The motion died for lack of a second.

Council Member Lucas then asked the City Manager to explain to the audience the information on the 911 situation.

City Manager Lord stated, the last version given is the correct version. A 911 call first goes to county dispatch. If it is an emergency, they will dispatch our vehicles directly, and so there is no pause at all in a response. The 549-1811 number is just a regular contact number if you want to report something to the police department. This is common in every jurisdiction. 911 is for emergencies and the regular phone number is proper for everything else. So, if you have an emergency, call 911, point blank. If you want to report something that's not an emergency, you can call 911, but 549-1811 works just as well.

Mr. Godley then asked the City Manager if that information had been communicated to the entire police force, because the officers at the meeting did not know that? Mr. Lord stated, I can't explain the mis-communication, but that is the proper answer and the officers should know that as the correct answer.

Ltd. Clint Crouse then stated this has been communicated to the officers and that's standard. Now, if you call 911 for two guys walking down the sidewalks, they are not going to go over our radio and dispatch that, but if you call for a break-in, they're going to immediately come over our air and send us to that area.

Mr. Godley then said, my only point being and most of these guys were in the audience when they heard the police officers tell us we can cut out the middle man if we dial 1811. So, I just want to be sure that everyone understands we need a communication given to all police officers to make sure they understand what the method is.

Mayor Young stated, I don't think that Officer Chapman was intending to tell you to have the 1811 replace 911, but it did come across that way, and I hope it is straightened out now.

Ms. Kim Crouse, wife of Ltd. Clint Crouse, then addressed Council. She stated, you made the comment that the community and police department need to come together in support. I have lived here for 38 years of my life. As a police officer's wife, you are absolutely correct. Until our community supports the police department and the police department supports the community, we'll never come together. I have 5 children and I have watched my husband walk out the door to take care of all of you that don't support the police department. I am not saying everybody, but we are lacking in support, as a community together. As a teenager growing up in Walterboro, our youth didn't have anything to do. We had the skating rink until I was 15, and we rode up and down the streets of Jefferies Blvd. and turned around at Burger Chick. So, we didn't have anything to do, but our parents kept hold of us and our neighbors kept hold of us. We had community support. Comments have been made that the community doesn't trust the police department. Until, we start supporting and trusting then we don't have anything. You watch your spouse walk out the door everyday and not know whether or not he's going to come home, it'll make a difference. So, we need to come together.

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PROCLAMATION - Recognizing the Band of Blue

A motion was made by Council Member Peters to adopt Proclamation No. 2010-06, to recognize the Colleton County High School Band of Blue. Council Member Lucas seconded the **motion that passed unanimously**. Mayor Young read the proclamation in its entirety into the records. Present to receive the proclamation on behalf of the Band of Blue were Band Director Tommy Finigan and several young members of the Band of Blue. Mr. Finigan thanked the community for its support of the Band of Blue and its recent trip to New Orleans. A copy of the proclamation is attached as part of these minutes.

NO OLD BUSINESS:

There was no Old Business before Council.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Ordinance # 2010-07**, An Ordinance to Change the Zoning on a Parcel of Land on Spruce Street, Tax Map # 147-15-00-016, from Medium Density Residential (MDR) to Highway Commercial District (HCD) was before Council. City Manager Lord noted that the Planning Commission had reviewed this zoning request and recommended approval of the rezoning request by City Council.

A motion giving first reading approval to Ordinance # 2010-07 was made by Council Member Buckner, seconded by Council Member Smalls. Council Member Parker asked for the location of Spruce Street. City Manager Lord responded that this street was behind BiLo, near Meadow Street. Council Member Lucas asked if there was a purpose for this rezoning, because we are writing the zoning ordinance now.

The motion then passed with all members voting in favor.

- 2. Additional Street Closing Request for the 2010 Antiques and Arts Festival**

Ms. Sarah Miller, on behalf of the Colleton County Historical and Preservation Society, appeared before Council requesting the closing of:

- 1) Church Street between N. Miller Street and Fishburne Street from 9:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. on May 14 and May 15.

Ms. Miller explained that this closing is the section of N. Miller Street between the Lucas House and the Little Library.

A motion was made by Council Member Peters, seconded by Council Member Parker to grant the street closing request as submitted. **The motion passed with all members voting in favor.**

- 3. Request to Use Downtown Plaza for Gospel Singing Event on May 16, 2010**

A motion was made by Council Member Lucas granting approval of the use of the Downtown Plaza by Ms. Kim Lee for a Gospel Singing Event on May 16, 2010. Council Member Smalls seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Buckner questioned whether the group would be serving any food, beverages or sell any items. City Manager Lord responded that no food would be sold, it's just a singing event, no chairs, no parking spaces, it's setting up and they will sing for 2 hours. Electrical outlets is all that they requested and to turn off the waterfall. **The motion then passed unanimously.**

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4. Request to Use the City Parking Lot for Community Action Day Event on May 28, 2010.

Council reviewed a letter submitted by Mr. Leroy Womble requesting to use a portion of the City Parking Lot on May 28, 2010 for a Community Day Event. Council Member Buckner **MOVED** to grant the request as so stated. Council Member Smalls seconded the **motion that passed unanimously**.

5. Street Closing Request and Use of Downtown Plaza for Annual Memorial Day Ceremony on May 31, 2010 by Veterans Council

A motion was made by Council Member Smalls to grant the request by the Veterans Council as submitted. Council Member Parker seconded the **motion that passed unanimously**.

6. Discussion of Traffic Calming Devices on Miller Street - by Council Member Dwayne Buckner

Council Member Buckner told Council he had received some concerns about the traffic on Miller Street which is parallel to Pinckney Park. He said, we have individuals coming off of Wichman Street driving through there at a high rate of speed and we have small children playing. We should look at some type of mechanism to slow the traffic down in that particular area. Council Member Buckner further stated, I brought this to the attention of the City Manager, and now I am asking the City Manager to address the options regarding this matter.

City Manager Lord then stated, your options are basically: 1) Use street signage; 2) alter the street by using a speed hump, or 3) lowering the speed limit.

On a question by Council Member Smalls on the present speed limit on that street, City Manager Lord responded the speed limit is 25 mph. Mayor Young wanted to know if the City has had any problems with that in the past. City Manager Lord responded that the city did not have any accidents in the area recently, and we have not seen any reported speeding tickets.

When questioned by the Mayor whether there were any reported problems or complaints by the park on Miller Street, Chief Rhodes reported that his department had not received any calls for service with the park itself, and no calls for traffic related accidents or tickets on Miller Street. He explained that this is a short street, it's narrow and you can only build up so much speed on this street. He said most of the traffic on this street is coming either from or to the Valero Gas Station, as a cut through. Chief Rhodes also reported three accidents on Hampton Street (one at Hampton and Jefferies, and two on Lemacks Street on Hampton) and another accident on Wichman Street and Lemacks.

Council Member Lucas then asked if this street was owned by the city or DOT? City Manager Lord responded that N. Miller Street, next to the park, is a city street.

Mayor Young asked the City Attorney what is the liability involved when you put up a speed bump. Attorney Cone responded that he was not familiar with speed bumps on public highways, but on private subdivisions where the roads are private, they are sometimes common, or in parking lots. It would depend on the design of the speed bumps. I am sure the Highway Department would have some information and statistics on this, but I don't readily have the information, but I will be glad to get some information for you.

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Mayor Young then asked the City Manager what would be the cost involved for the three options? City Manager Lord responded that the signage would be relatively inexpensive. For the speed hump, my best guess would be around \$10,000. It has to be rather large. What you want to prevent is someone coming along on a motorcycle and not expecting a change in the asphalt, hitting it and having an accident, so it has to be relatively large. That's a lot of asphalt and you need to tie it in with the sidewalks. That's just a guess.

Council Member Lohr then asked the City Manager if there is a possibility of having a sign that indicates "a park is in the area". Mr. Lord responded affirmatively. He said, we have several signs in some places that are playground signs.

Council Member Peters asked if there were any other complaints from the residents in that neighborhood about that street and the speeding? City Manager Lord again noted that the city had not received any complaints.

City Manager Buckner reported that he had received at least two complaints from people who had approached him about the speeding between Wichman and Miller Street on the side street going up to Hampton Street. My thinking is we need to be proactive in trying to do some thing. I understand that a lot of times I come up with these grand ideas, but I guess a baby step would be to at least reduce the speed limit. I will make a motion that we reduce the speed limit to 15 MPH and we put up a sign that indicates that there is a park in this area to help reduce that speed in that area. Council Member Peters seconded the motion.

In discussing the motion, Ltd. Clint Crouse stated, under South Carolina state law, you actually have to go through the Highway Department (DOT) if you are going to alter anything on the roadway, which includes a reduction of speed. The reason I can tell you that is because we went through the same thing with 6th Street when we cut 6th Street in half. They will have to come down and do a survey. They send their traffic engineer down. If a speed hump is what they say can be utilized, you'll have to go through them, but we as a city are unable to alter it without their permission. City Manager Lord responded that this street is not in the state system.

The motion to reduce the speed limit on Miller Street to 15 MPH and to post signage indicating there is a children's park in the area, then passed with a vote of 6/1 with Mayor Young, Council Members Buckner, Peters, Lucas, Smalls and Lohr voting in favor and Council Member Parker voting against the motion for adoption.

7. Discussion of Improving Gateways to the City - by Council Member Dwayne Buckner

Council Member Buckner stated that he asked that this item to be placed on the agenda for discussion by Council. He stated, we have signage coming from 17A from Summerville coming into the city, there is a sign that says "Welcome to Walterboro". This sign was put up 4 or 5 years ago and it has started to look dilapidated and it needs some improvement. The other sign we have is coming from Exit 53, coming from Shoney's into town. This sign also says "Welcome to Walterboro". My vision and hope is that we could have entrances to the city look a little bit more grander, with some shrubbery, maybe some flowers that give people a very warm welcome into the City of Walterboro. You can even use the red rocking chair as a theme. I wanted to talk about that because I believe that when people come to the city, they need to know that they are in the City of Walterboro and that we are doing positive things in our city by making entrances very nice and very pleasant to look at. Additionally, we have two other entrances into the city coming from Bells Highway, where we have no signage at all and also coming into Hampton Street from Highway 64 coming from Charleston, there is no signage there as well. I would like for us to look at that and come up with some type of plan to improve the gateways and entrances into the city.

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Mayor Young then stated, I think that's properly a topic for whatever is Council's pleasure, but it is a topic better addressed in a work session or at the retreat than in a Council Meeting, just because it is not something we are going to really nail down here tonight. Having been in sessions where we discussed signage before, it can get pretty lengthy and there will be differences of opinions as to what we should do. We can certainly do whatever Council wants to do tonight, but I would think that it is probably more appropriate to address that in a work session.

Council Member Buckner then asked if there is a problem with the City Manager coming up with a plan or some options for Council. Mayor Young responded, if that's what Council wants him to do. You need to remember that the Manager and the staff takes direction from the Council as a whole and not from any one Council Member.

Council Member Buckner then **MOVED** that we direct our City Manager to research the entrances and how we can beautify the entrances to the City of Walterboro and bring us back a plan in order for us to discuss. **The motion died for lack of a second.**

Mayor Young then stated, normally Councilman Buckner those kinds of things would be handled in a work session and a lot of time, it is Council itself that would make the suggestions to the staff, and then staff would bring back something as a compilation of those suggestions. That's the way, it has been done in the past.

8. Request for Street Closing for the Law Officers Memorial - Add-on Agenda Item

Mayor Young announced that the Law Officers Memorial will be dedicated on Saturday, May 15, 2010 on the court house grounds starting at 10:00 A.M. and lasting about an hour. The committee requested that the following roads be closed from 9:45 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. for this dedication: Hampton Street at Jefferies Boulevard, Hampton Street at Walter Street and Walter Street at Washington Street.

A motion was made by Council Member Lucas to approve the road closing as presented. Council Member Smalls seconded the motion. A brief discussion was held. Mayor Young said he believed the reason they are asking for this is because it will be a solemn event and there may be noise from traffic going by there. We also have the other events taking place downtown at the same time. City Manager Lord then suggested as an alternative to keep the roads open. We can put our police vehicles in the road with their lights going and have traffic slow down to address the noise issue, if you wanted to keep the roads open.

Council Member Lucas asked what time the tractor parade would be held. He thought it would be held at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 A.M. He stated, we might need to reschedule the tractor parade, which is kind of noisy. City Manager Lord announced that the tractor show is from 10:00 to 4:00, and the parade is at 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. On the suggestion of the Mayor, Chief Rhodes agreed to be responsible for making sure the tractor parade does not start until the Memorial ceremony is finished.

The motion then passed with all members voting in favor.

THERE WERE NO COMMITTEE REPORTS.

The Mayor then entertained a motion to enter an executive session. Council Member Parker so **MOVED**, and Council Member Lucas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Mayor then announced that Council would enter an executive session to discuss a matter related to Boards and Commission Appointments,

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for a discussion of matters relating to proposed provision of services encouraging the location or expansion of industry or other businesses in the area and receipt of legal advice regarding a potential claim.

The meeting then entered into an Executive Session.

The meeting returned to Open Session and a motion was made by Council Member Peters to appoint Trey Black and Lesley L. Bligen to the Youth Advisory Commission. Council Member Lucas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Parker, seconded by Council Member Buckner and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:35 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

APPROVED: May 25, 2010