

## **MINUTES**

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at 6:15 P.M. with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

**PRESENT WERE:** Mayor Bill Young, Council Members: Jimmy Syfrett, Paul Siegel, Tom Lohr, Bobby Bonds, James Broderick and Judy Bridge. City Manager Jeff Molinari, City Clerk Betty Hudson and City Attorney George Cone were also present. Approximately 45 persons were present in the audience, which included Pastor Leon Maxwell of St. Peter's AME Church, along with some of his church members.

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

The Mayor announced that a big event will be held at the library this weekend on Saturday called Giga Toshou-con, and I think that's why we have Batman and Super Girl with us here tonight.

### **PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

There were no comments or questions on agenda items.

### **PRESENTATION:**

#### **1. Proposal for a Walterboro Splash Pad and Skate Park, Mr. Eddie Rumfelt**

Mr. Eddie Rumfelt appeared before Council with a proposal to establish a Splash Pad and Skate Park in the City of Walterboro. He told Council that currently many families are traveling over 50 miles and spending in excess of \$200 to visit other water attractions in other cities. Many citizens have expressed that they would love to keep their "Bucks in the Boro", but have no choice but to plan family days out of town.

Mr. Rumfelt said, for as long as I can remember, I have heard people wish we had a community pool, a place to cool off during the summer break from school or a place to take the kids on a Saturday afternoon - somewhere that don't break the bank or require an hour of driving. After much research and talking with some members of the City Council, I understand the maintenance cost and liabilities in terms of a pool, it's a cost that the City cannot take on. Splash pads are quickly replacing the community pool. Instead of repairing the old community pool, many cities are opting for investing in a Splash Pad, since there is no need for life guards and they require very little maintenance. They are a more cost effective community facility.

Mr. Rumfelt further said, when I wasn't sweating at band camp with Mr. Young, I was looking for a place to skate board with my friends at the frequent parking lots or the movie theater, McDonald's, and even risked life and limb skating down Hargo Hill.

The local businesses did not take kindly to make shift skate parks in the parking lot. When we were asked to leave, we had to go and find a new place. After a while we ran out of acceptable places and eventually gave up skateboarding. Today, we are facing a time where our children are running out of safe environments to socialize outside of school. As you are all aware, our City is not the same as it was in the past. Walterboro has the potential to rebuilt the reputation we all know it deserves. Many small communities are funding and offering amenities like these to the citizens, they are able to lower the crime rates and raise a sense of community.

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Concluding, Mr. Rumfelt said, in my proposal, I have given to City Council all the information I was able to acquire about the construction cost and operation cost for this dual purpose facility. I have also included many suggestions on how to generate revenue to cover operating costs. Inside, you will also find a large section on skate parks built for under \$100,000, contractor report portfolios, design suggestions and property information on three different locations. I have also spoken with a few nonprofit organizations that are ready to help turn this idea into a reality. I understand that planning and building this type of facility takes some time and many more meetings to discuss budget, designs, funding and various other things that need to be addressed.

Mr. Rumfelt further stated, for today I am asking Council to take into consideration all of the supporters of this plan. I ask the City to be willing to work with myself and the citizens to bring something new and exciting to the Front Porch of the Lowcountry.

Mr. Rumfelt said that he has a petition going to support this facility. Right now, he has around 1,055 signatures, and that was just to try and get a general idea of who all were interested. He said he would be happy to answer any questions at this point. No questions were raised.

Mayor Young thanked Mr. Rumfelt for his presentation and the presentation was accepted as information.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the May 16, 2017 Work Session on the Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center were approved as submitted on the motion of Council Member Bridge, seconded by Council Member Broderick and passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no Old Business before Council.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Ordinance # 2017-06, An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance # 2017-04, So As to Set the Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor in the 2017-2018 Budget, First Reading.**

City Manager Molinari told Council, you have before you an ordinance to adopt the Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor for the next tax year. The reason why we are doing this now is that we typically don't get the numbers from the County until mid-July. The Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor is a simple formula, where you take the anticipated collections and divide it by the total appraised value of properties in the City. We ask for your favorable consideration of this request, as we need to get the sales tax credit factor to the County so they can send out the tax bills.

This ordinance sets the L.O.S.T Credit Factor at .001593. A motion was made by Council Member Siegel giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2017-06 as submitted. Council Member Bonds seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

2. **Ordinance # 2017-07, An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance # 2017-04, So As to Roll Back the City of Walterboro Millage Rate for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 General Fund Budget, First Reading.**

City Manager Molinari told Council, as you are aware Counties are required to reassess property values every five (5) years. As a result of the reassessment,

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municipalities are required to roll back their millage rate, so as to receive the same amount of revenue from property taxes after reassessment as they did before. The budget that passed in June established a millage rate at 88 mills. In putting together the formula as dictated by State Law, this will roll back the millage rate to 86.4 mills. Again, this information will need to be sent along to the County for the tax bills to go out in the fall. Staff asks for Council's favorable consideration of this request.

A motion was made by Council Member Broderick giving First Reading Approval to Ordinance # 2017-07, An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance # 2017-04, So as to Roll Back the City of Walterboro Millage Rate for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 General Fund Budget. Council Member Syfrett seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

At this point, Mayor Young said, I would like to back up to the previous Ordinance # 2017-06. I think most everybody knows this, but the Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor goes to reduce property taxes, and that's what we were setting there is the factor by which we will determine how much property taxes will be reduced.

3. **Resolution # 2017-R-04, A Resolution Authorizing the Imposition of Financial Policies for the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, and Other Matters Relating Thereto.**

City Manager Molinari said, you have before you a proposed set of financial policies. This is something that we have been discussing for sometime during our budget process and what this essentially does is that it takes the practices that we have done and puts them down as policy, to be adopted by City Council, pertaining to fund balance, debt administration, enterprise fund transfers, federal grant awards, cash and investments. The City's bond counsel Lawrence Flynn prepared this document. The City's auditors have reviewed it and are in concurrence with it. Staff asks for Council's favorable adoption of this resolution.

A motion was made by Council Siegel to adopt Resolution # 2017-R-04, Authorizing the Imposition of Financial Policies for the City of Walterboro, South Carolina, and Other Matters Relating Thereto. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

4. **Resolution # 2017-R-05, A Resolution to Recognize the 150th Anniversary of St. Peter's African Methodist Episcopal Church.**

The Mayor then asked Pastor Leon Maxwell to stand, along with several of his church members present from St. Peter's AME Church. These persons were present on behalf of this resolution to recognize the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Peter's AME Church.

The Mayor then read the resolution in its entirety into the records; after which the Mayor announced that the church will have a special service on August 20<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 P.M. and he will present this resolution on behalf of City Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Siegel to adopt Resolution # 2017-R-05, recognizing the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Peter's African Methodist Episcopal Church. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. A copy of said resolution is attached as part of these minutes.

The Mayor congratulated the pastor and church members. He said, it is quite an accomplishment these days and time to reach 150 years. So, congratulations.

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5. **Consideration of Funding Recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee.**

Next, City Manager Molinari advised Council that the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee met on June 15, 2017 and considered applications for A-tax funding. The committee made the following funding recommendations for City Council's approval:

| <b><u>Request for 30% Tourism Fund</u></b> | <b><u>Requested</u></b> | <b><u>Approved</u></b> |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|
| *Walterboro Tourism Commission             | \$60,000                | \$60,000               |

\*Should this recommendation be adopted by Council, the Walterboro Tourism Commission will remain the designated marketing organization for the City of Walterboro for fiscal year 2017-2018.

| <b><u>Requests for 65% Tourism Fund</u></b>                | <b><u>Requested</u></b> | <b><u>Approved</u></b> |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Coll Cty Museum & Farmers Market-<br>Festival of Trees     | \$ 4,000                | \$ 3,000               |
| Coll Cty Hist & Pres Society - Holiday<br>Tour of Homes    | \$ 5,045                | \$ 3,000               |
| Coll Cty Hist & Pres Society - Front Porch<br>Phantoms     | \$ 6,380                | \$ 3,000               |
| SC Artisans Center - marketing &<br>promotions             | \$14,600                | \$14,600               |
| Walterboro Tourism Com - Walterboro<br>Criterium 2018      | \$21,000                | \$16,500               |
| Coll Cty Rice Festival w/Tour de<br>Lowcountry & Dock Dogs | \$22,500                | \$17,500               |
| City of Walterboro - local billboard program               | \$21,000                | \$21,000               |
| Walterboro Tourism Com - Walterboro<br>Rocks & Digital Ads | <u>\$60,000</u>         | <u>\$60,000</u>        |
| Totals   | \$154,525               | \$138,600              |

Concluding, Mr. Molinari stated that should these requests be approved as submitted, the remaining balance for 2017-2018 will be approximately \$41,215. The A-Tax Advisory Committee respectfully requests City Council's approval of these recommendations.

A motion was made by Council Member Syfrett to approve the A-Tax Committee's recommendations as submitted. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members voting in favor.

6. **Consideration of WWTP Upgrade Change Order**

The City Manager told Council, in front of you is a revised memorandum from myself with a memo from AECOM attached. As you are aware, the upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment are currently under construction. The City's contractor Wharton-Smith has removed a total of 200 tons of waste material in the amount of \$875.00 per dry metric ton. The contract that the City entered into with Wharton-Smith had provided \$175,000 in disposal. We have discovered in this process that there is a lot more material that is stored in the equalization basin. As a result at this point, we are approximately 30% complete. As a result, we have a proposed change order from our engineer AECOM in the amount of \$400,000 for Wharton-Smith to continue the disposal rate at \$875.00 per dry metric ton. We currently have a construction contingency with the loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund of \$358,400. The additional \$41,600 will be absorbed by the Water and Sewer Utility

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Funds. I have asked the City's Utilities Director Wayne Crosby to give City Council a brief technical overview of this proposed change order.

Utilities Director Wayne Crosby then addressed Council. He said, as Jeff as already commented, it was grossly underestimated the amount of material that was in that equalization basin. This go around, we asked Wharton-Smith and the subcontractor who is performing the clean out of the equalization basin to give us a better estimate. Even though AECOM was allowed to look over those figures, we are a lot more confident that the \$400,000 for 400+ metric units is probably closer to the actual amount. This portion of the contract is probably only a quarter of the overall bid, but there is a lot of stored material on this property at the Wastewater Plant. We probably have \$250,000 worth of stored material that can't be installed until the equalization basin has been cleaned out. So, it's forcing the project to hold up a lot on the construction.

The Mayor then asked Mr. Crosby to give the total project cost. Mr. Crosby responded, it's over \$3.6 million as is. With this \$400,000 change order, we will be at \$4 million.

A motion was made by Council Member Syfrett to approve the change order for the WWTP Upgrade in the amount of \$400,000. Council Member Siegel seconded the motion.

In discussing the motion, Council Member Bonds then said, what I am trying to understand is who underestimated what? I am not following this, or I am sorry I have forgotten what's been explained to me previously.

Mr. Crosby responded that our engineer was allowed to take a look at the equalization basin and come up with an estimate. He used textbook mathematics to come up with the volume, and it's not a regular equalization basin. It's not being used in a typical manner. They grossly underestimated what's there.

Council Member Bonds asked, so what did he estimate was there? Mr. Crosby responded, 200 dry metric tons. The original contract for 200 dry metric tons was at \$175,000.

On a question by Council Member Bonds, Mr. Crosby noted that we are looking at an additional 400 dry metric tons.

Mayor Young then said, that's a pretty big mistake, don't you think?

Council Member Bonds then raised a question concerning the engineer. He asked, did we hire that engineer to make an estimate that we then give to these contractors to remove the dry sludge? How did they make this kind of mistake? I am not following it, because I would assume that before they estimated it, that they would look into how it's being used and what's going on. I am not following a mistake of that magnitude. Mr. Crosby said, to be quite frank, we aren't either. We asked them in the beginning to double check the figures. We weren't confident with that figure. We gave them every opportunity to go back and redo that, until Wharton-Smith came on board and the subcontractor came on board, it was reflected that we did not have a good figure.

Council Member Bonds then said, so what you are asking us to do tonight is to go ahead and approve this. Well, let me ask you this, why are we using the same guy again? Why aren't we hiring another engineer? Mr. Crosby responded, this is the second mistake, but the same project. Council Member Bonds then asked, how much

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is it going to cost to get another engineer to look into this, because how do I know, this guy could have miscalculated again.

Mr. Crosby said, we entertained changing engineers mid-stream and most engineers did not want to entertain that. They wanted to start from the ground up, and not take the initial preliminary engineering report from this engineer. It would cost us an amazing amount to start from scratch with a new engineer.

Council Member Bonds then asked if this was the same engineer we had a problem with before? The response was yes. Mr. Bonds said, we will just tag this on to the list. Mr. Crosby responded, it is the same project.

Mayor Young then said, from what I understand we don't have much of a choice, but to move forward with it, because we can't complete the project without emptying the equalization basin. Of course, we have learned a lesson about the engineer on this project, and I think certainly that will be a topic for another discussion.

Council Member Bridge then asked if there were a time limit on the completion of construction related to grants? Mr. Crosby responded that the general contractor still estimates that they will be finished by December 2017 as scheduled, but this is going to be a delay. They estimate probably a four weeks delay. This will still put them in the time frame for the entire project, which is scheduled for completion in May 2018.

Ms. Bridge then asked if the City can absorb this overage in the Enterprise Fund? Mr. Crosby responded, this will be funded through the contingency fund, the SRF Loan and some of it through the Enterprise Fund.

Mayor Young then said to Mr. Crosby, you do think we need to go forward with this and get it out of the way, right? Mr. Crosby responded, yes. It's just going to hold up a big portion of the project if we don't complete it.

Council Member Siegel then asked when was the last time the basin was cleaned out? Has it even been cleaned out? Mr. Crosby responded, I have been here 18 years and it has never been touched. Now, that was the original question for the calculations that AECOM came up with. We attempted to clean it out ourselves several years ago and we met our financial funding obligation and we still had not touched what was in the equalization basin. We didn't do any calculations with AECOM when they determined 200 dry metric tons, but we weren't confident in their numbers. Again, we questioned them several times, but they felt that they were okay. To answer your question, it had not been cleaned out.

Mayor Young then said, we hire engineers and then rely on their expertise, because they are experts in handling this kind of thing. So, we assume that they are going to give us good numbers, and in this case it just didn't happen. I would think that engineers that deal with this kind of thing everyday would know how to get a good number.

Council Member Bonds then asked, AECOM is our engineer, correct. Mr. Crosby responded correct. Mr. Bonds then asked if Wharton-Smith, the contractor, is charging more to do the second batch. Mr. Crosby responded, it's a line item, that was in the contract for \$875 per ton. Whatever additional that they pull out of the basin is still at the set price of \$875 per ton.

**The motion to approve the upgrade change order for the WWTP then passed with all members voting in favor.**

**7. Consideration of Bids to Purchase New Grapple Truck for Public Works Department**

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City Manager Molinari briefed Council on this item. He noted that a memorandum and supporting documentation were contained in the agenda packet from the Public Works Director requesting to purchase a new grapple truck for yard debris removal. The Public Works Department received three bids and is recommending the purchase of a 2018 Freightliner M2-106 from Triple T Freightliner in Summerville, SC in the amount of \$144,951.82, which is less than the budgeted amount of \$148,300.00. The three bids received were as follows:

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| The Pete Store (Columbia, SC) - 2018 Peterbuilt 337                | \$147,789.00 |
| Amick Equipment (Lexington, SC) - 2018 Freightliner M2-106         | \$148,975.00 |
| Triple T Freightliner (Summerville, SC) - 2018 Freightliner M2-106 | \$144,951.82 |

A motion was made by Council Member Bonds to approve the recommendation to purchase a new grapple truck from Triple T Freightliner from Summerville, SC for \$144,951.82. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

**8. Consideration of Bids to Purchase Police Vehicles**

City Manager Molinari told Council that two memos with supporting documents were contained in the agenda packet from Police Chief Marvin to purchase a new patrol vehicle and a new admin vehicle.

For a new patrol vehicle, the Police Department received 3 bids and 1 no bid as follows:

|                 |                        |                |             |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| State Contract  | 2017 Chev Caprice      | Columbia, SC   | \$46,264.13 |
| Walterboro Ford | 207 Ford Interceptor   | Walterboro, SC | \$42,968.13 |
| Butler Dodge    | 2017 Dodge Charger     | Beaufort, SC   | \$41,698.13 |
| Riser Chevrolet | 2017 Chevrolet Caprice | Walterboro, SC | No bid      |

After applying the local preference option, the local bidder did not qualify for the opportunity to match the low bidder. The low bidder is Butler Dodge for a 2017 Dodge Charger in the amount of \$41,698.13. The 2017-2018 Police Department budget allocated \$42,000.00 for the purchase of a new a patrol vehicle. Staff asks for Council's favorable consideration of this request.

A motion was made by Council Member Syfrett to approve the recommendation to accept the low bidder, Butler Dodge, in the amount of \$41,698.13 for a 2017 Dodge Charger. Council Member Siegel seconded the motion. In discussing the motion, Council Member Bonds asked if the City was purchasing two vehicles, and if the price was the same price for both vehicles. City Manager Molinari responded, no, it's two different vehicles. The next vehicle is an admin vehicle which has less equipment. These vehicles are much less than the patrol vehicle.

The City Manager then reviewed the bids received for the admin police vehicle. He reported that the Police Department also received three bids and 1 no bid as follows:

|                 |                        |                |             |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| State Contract  | 2017 Chev Caprice      | Columbia, SC   | \$32,636.16 |
| Walterboro Ford | 207 Ford Interceptor   | Walterboro, SC | \$29,474.16 |
| Butler Dodge    | 2017 Dodge Charger     | Beaufort, SC   | \$28,180.16 |
| Riser Chevrolet | 2017 Chevrolet Caprice | Walterboro, SC | No bid      |

City Manager Molinari pointed out that the Police Department's 2017-2018 budget allocated \$32,000 for the purchase of one new admin vehicle with equipment. After applying the local preference option, the local bidder did not qualify for the

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opportunity to match the low bidder. Staff recommends purchasing one (1) 2017 Dodge Charger from Butler Dodge, Beaufort, South Carolina in the amount of \$28,180.16.

The Mayor then said, we have a motion and a second on the floor for that first vehicle. Council Member Syfrett then amended his motion (with the approval of the second) to approve the request to buy both these vehicles for the Police Department as recommended. Council Member Siegel seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

9. **Consideration of Bids to Purchase New Tractor Package for Parks Department**

Next, the City Manager reported that Parks Director Adam Davis received three bids to purchase a new tractor package as follows:

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Blanchard Equipment Company, Inc. (St. George, SC) | \$33,642.00 |
| Steen Enterprises (Charleston, SC)                 | \$33,804.00 |
| Lowcountry Equipment (Walterboro, SC)              | \$36,720.00 |

Mr. Molinari stated that the FY 2017-2018 budget allocated \$33,000 for the purchase of a new tractor package. After applying the local preference option, the local bidder did not qualify for the opportunity to match the low bidder. City staff recommends purchasing the tractor package from Blanchard Equipment Company out of St. George, SC in the amount of \$33,642, which is \$642 over budget. However, we have some unexpended personnel costs in the Parks Department budget to absorb the additional \$642.

A motion was made by Council Member Broderick to approve the purchase of a tractor package from Blanchard Equipment Company in the amount of \$33,642. Council Member Lohr seconded the motion that passed with all members voting in favor.

10. **Request to Close Streets for Prayer Walk for Schools, August 12, 2017 at 9:00 A.M. by Colleton Baptist Association**

A motion was made by Council Member Bridge to approve the parade permit request for a prayer walk on August 12, 2017 by Colleton Baptist Association. Council Member Broderick seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Mr. Zane Brown, present on behalf of the Colleton Baptist Association, invited everyone to join in the prayer walk. He said the walk will start at the Colleton Baptist Association and it's just a mile and ½ walk to the School District Building. We do have some golf carts for those who may not be able to make the entire trip. We have talked with Barry McRoy and the Police Department. So everything looks good. We should be done by 11:00 A.M.

11. **Consideration of Requests by Walterboro Rotary Club for 5th Annual Ireland Creek Bridge Run on September 28, 2017**

A motion was made by Council Member Siegel to approve this request as submitted by the Walterboro Rotary Club for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ireland Creek Bridge Run on September 28, 2017. Council Member Syfrett seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**



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There were no committee reports given.

**CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

1. **Grant Award Received for Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center from SC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism**

City Manager Jeff Molinari recognized the City's Tourism Director, Michelle Strickland, for putting together and receiving a \$200,000 Undiscovered SC Grant from the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for construction of the Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Discovery Center. He said that this will certainly be a tremendous help as we begin construction on this project.

The Mayor congratulated Ms. Strickland and thanked her for the good job.

2. **Recognition of Certificate Awards Received by City of Walterboro Finance Department and Director Amy Risher**

Next, City Manager Molinari said, I just want to recognize the Finance Department, in particular Amy Risher, for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year achieving the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our finance staff.

Mayor Young asked if this was the CAFR award. Mr. Molinari responded, yes, I think there are three different certificates in there.

Mayor Young added, we do accounting that is above and beyond what is required. So, that's a testament to our staff here and we appreciate their hard work.

The Mayor also said, what I was going to say a minute ago, on Thursday at 10:00 A.M., Channel 4 will be broadcasting Lowcountry Live from the Downtown Plaza. I just wanted to invite everyone to come and see that broadcast go out. We will be glad to have you. If it rains, it is going to move to the Museum and Farmer's market.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion to enter an Executive Session was then made by Council Member Broderick, seconded by Council Member Lohr and passed unanimously. The Mayor then announced that the meeting would enter into an Executive Session for:

1. A Contractual Matter:
  - a. Dispatch Services.
  - b. I-95 Business Loop Project, Phase 1B.
2. Consideration of Purchase of Property.
3. Personnel Matter:
  - a. Appointment of City Attorney.

The meeting convened into an Executive Session.

A motion was made by Council Member Bridge to come out of executive session and return to Open Session. Council Member Lohr second the motion. All in favor. None Opposed. Motion carried.

The meeting returned to Open Session with no action being taken as a result of the Executive Session. There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Bridge, seconded by Council Member Lohr. All in favor.

Walterboro City Council  
Regular Meeting  
August 1, 2017

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None opposed. Motion carried. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:40 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: October 3, 2017**