

Walterboro City Council  
Virtual Regular Meeting (Using Zoom)  
March 2, 2021

## MINUTES

A Phone/Video Conference Virtual Meeting using Zoom was held by Walterboro City Council at City Hall on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 6:00 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

**PRESENT WERE:** Joined in the meeting were: Mayor Bill Young, Councilmembers: Paul Siegel, Greg Pryor, Judy Bridge, James Broderick, Carl Brown, and Ladson Fishburne. City Manager Jeff Molinari, Assistant City Manager Hank Amundson, Finance Director Amy Risher, City Clerk Callie Seals, Attorney George Cone and Attorney Brown McLeod.

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

With all Councilmembers present, the Mayor called the meeting to order, and invited everyone to join in as he gave the invocation. Councilmember Broderick led the pledge of allegiance to our flag.

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

The Mayor stated public input on agenda items had been distributed to Council by email.

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

The Mayor then opened a public hearing, duly advertised, to receive comments on the following proposed ordinance:

1. **Ordinance # 2021-02**, A SERIES ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF WATERWORKS AND SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS OF THE CITY OF WALTERBORO, SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT EXCEEDING SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS (\$7,000,000); AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO (Second and Final Reading).

City Manager Molinari then said you have in your agenda packet an ordinance and supporting documentation for a \$7 million bond issuance. This is for expanding capacity of the wastewater treatment plant and also for some various water and sewer improvement projects. In your agenda packet you'll see that we received four proposals on that bond. You'll also see a memo from the city's financial advisor recommending the selection of Truist, which is formerly BB&T offering a 20- year fixed interest rate of 2.59%, which would be locked in for the entire term of the bond. If approved by City Council, we are scheduled to close on that bond next week.

The Mayor then stated he would recuse himself as he sits on the board at Truist Bank.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Upon motion of Councilmember Bridge, seconded by Councilmember Pryor, the following meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

1. Minutes of February 2, 2021.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Ordinance # 2021-02**, A SERIES ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF WATERWORKS AND SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS OF THE CITY OF WALTERBORO, SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT EXCEEDING SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS (\$7,000,000); AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO (Second and Final Reading).

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Second: Councilmember Siegel

Discussion: None.

Carried: All ayes (Except for Mayor Young who recused himself).

2. **Resolution # 2021-R-01**, A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT A FEMA HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP) APPLICATION FOR AN EMERGENCY ENGINE-DRIVE POWER SUPPLY SYSTEM AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND TO COMMIT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$425,962 OR 25% OF THE GRANT REQUEST TO MEET THE MATCHING COMMITMENT OF THE HMGP PROGRAM.

City Manager Molinari stated as part of the improvements to the wastewater treatment plant, we're going to need to put in a new generator. This is included as part of the larger project. We have an opportunity for funding through FEMA, which would pick up 75% of the cost of that generator. In order to complete the application Council has to pass a resolution committing 25% of that project costs which is \$425,962. The total anticipated cost of the generator is \$1,703,848. If approved, the FEMA share would be \$1,277,886, and the city share \$425,962 so this is just another opportunity for the city to supplement that project with additional grant funding and ask for council's favorable consideration of the request.

Motion: Councilmember Siegel; Second: Councilmember Pryor

Discussion: None.

Carried: All ayes.

3. **Resolution # 2021-R-02**, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF CERTAIN LOAN ASSISTANCE MONIES FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN LOAN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WALTERBORO AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA WATER QUALITY REVOLVING FUND AUTHORITY; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

As you're aware, at the council meeting last month Council approved a bid for an emergency generator and chlorination system at the Mable T. Willis Boulevard well project, and staff explained that we had been approved for a \$265,988 principal forgiveness loan from the DHEC State Revolving Fund. All this resolution does is formally accepts the funds by the City. This is a required step in order for us to participate in this program and as I stated last month, the principal forgiveness loan is essentially a grant. But in order for us to utilize that funding, Council has to formally accept the grant award.

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Second: Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None.

Carried: All ayes.

**CITY MANAGER’S REPORT:**

1. Request for approval of debris removal/cleanup expenses from April 13, 2020, tornado (memorandum and invoice attached).

City Manager Molinari said this is when the tornado hit Walterboro back in April of last year we utilized the county's debris removal contractor that allowed us to mobilize quickly. When we did that we were of the understanding that FEMA would reimburse us for or would cover 75% of the cost. There was a potential at the time that the state would cover the other 25%, unfortunately, we did not receive funding from the state. However, I will say that the total amount of \$68,659.65 can be absorbed by the General Fund. This is exactly why Council has worked towards having a strong fund balance is to be able to pay for responding to natural disasters like we had in April. Staff recommends an amount of \$68,659.65 to reimburse the county for expenses related to debris removal and clean up from the April 13, 2020 tornado.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Second: Councilmember Broderick  
Discussion: None.  
Carried: All ayes.

2. Board and Commission Reappointments (memorandum attached).

City Manager Molinari then said Council you have in your agenda packet a memo, with a list of our boards and commissions, and members who wish to be reappointed I'm just going to run through these quickly as follows:

**Accommodations Tax Committee**

Amar S. Patel (3-year term expiring January 1, 2024)  
Viral Patel (3-year term expiring January 1, 2024)

**Building Board**

Cole Crosby (4-year term expiring January 1, 2025)

**Board of Zoning Appeals**

Travis J. Godley (3-year term expiring January 1, 2024)  
Dandi Daniels (3-year term expiring January 1, 2024)

**Historic Preservation Commission**

Molly Watkins (2-year term expiring January 1, 2023)  
Benjamin Scott Hook (2-year term expiring January 1, 2023)

**Keep Walterboro Beautiful-City Appearance Board**

Dana Chaney (4-year term expiring January 1, 2025)  
Henry Hiott (4-year term expiring January 1, 2025)  
Talika Mock (4-year term expiring January 1, 2025)  
Deborah D. Rodriguez (4-year term expiring January 1, 2025)

## **Tree Protection Committee**

Michael Ferrari (2-year term expiring January 1, 2023)

We've contacted all of these individuals and they all wish to continue to serve on their respective boards and commissions, and we ask for councils favorable consideration of this request.

Motion: Councilmember Pryor; Second: Councilmember Brown  
Discussion: None.  
Carried: All ayes.

### 3. Paperless agendas (memorandum attached).

City Manager Molinari then said you have in your agenda packet, a memorandum giving a breakdown of what we had a conversation last month as to City Council transitioning to paperless agendas, through the purchase of iPads. I've done some research and the most cost effective option would be to purchase iPads. The iPad 8<sup>th</sup> generation meets all the Council's needs and retails for \$329. They do offer iPads with larger screens, but those are more expensive. The largest screens that they offer are almost 13 inches, and those typically retail for around \$1,000. If Council is interested in transitioning to paperless agendas staff will work towards purchasing the iPads and incorporating those into our meetings, and I'd be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Second: Councilmember Brown  
Discussion: None.  
Carried: All ayes.

### 4. Introduction of New Fire Department Captain, Marshall Morehead – Paul Seigler, Fire Chief.

Fire Chief Siegler introduced the City's new Fire Captain Morehead (although Morehead has been with the City for 20 years in other capacities) and City Council gave a warm welcome in his new position.

### 5. Consideration of funding recommendation from the Accommodations Tax Committee.

City Manager then said you have in your agenda packet, a memo and supporting documentation from the Finance Director. We only had one request to the Accommodation Tax Advisory Committee at the February meeting. The Colleton County Arts Council-Spring Sing requested \$1,500 and is recommending approval for \$1,000. Should this request be approved as submitted, the projected remaining balance for the year will be approximately \$59,922, and those remaining funds will be up for consideration at the next scheduled meeting in June of 2021 of the Atax committee. Respectfully, we request City Council's approval on this recommendation.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Second: Councilmember Pryor  
Discussion: None.  
Carried: All ayes.

A motion was by made by Councilmember Brown to enter into Executive Session, seconded by Councilmember Broderick and passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

1. Contractual Matters:
  - a. Project Swan
  - b. Potential Purchase of Property
2. Personnel Matter – Appointment to Board of Zoning Appeals.

Councilmember Bridge made a motion to come out of Executive Session and enter into Open Session, seconded by Councilmember Pryor and passed unanimously.

**OPEN SESSION:**

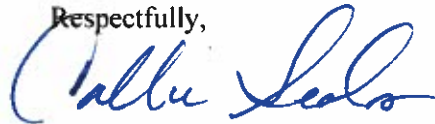
The meeting returned to Open Session.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fishburne to authorize the City Manager to reimburse the Colleton County Development Corporation in the amount of \$11,712.97 to purchase the property at 419 Hampton Street, seconded by Councilmember Broderick and passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Bridge to appoint Katherine Peer to the Zoning Board of Appeals, seconded by Councilmember Broderick and passed unanimously.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Pryor, seconded by Councilmember Brown and passed unanimously. The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:09 P.M. Notice of this meeting, call-in phone number, webinar I.D. and link to view the video were distributed with the agenda packets, to all local media, posted on City Hall bulletin boards and on the City's website at least twenty-four hours prior to meeting time.

Respectfully,



Callie Seals  
City Clerk

APPROVED: April 6, 2021