

**Walterboro City Council**

**City Hall**

**December 6, 2022**

**Minutes**

A regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday December 6, 2022, at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

**Present:** Joined in the meeting were: Mayor Bill Young, Councilmembers: Carl Brown, Judy Bridge, Paul Siegel, James Broderick, Greg Pryor, and Ladson Fishburne. City Manager Jeff Molinari, Assistant City Manager Ryan McLeod, City Clerk Adrienne Nettles, Finance Director Amy Risher, Police Chief Wade Marvin, Dana Chaney, and Brenda Carroll from The Baird Audit Group, LLC.

**Call to Order:**

With the above-mentioned Councilmembers present, Mayor Young called the meeting to order, and invited everyone to join in as he gave the invocation. Councilmember Siegel led the pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

**Public Input on Agenda Items:**

There was no public input on agenda items.

**Public Hearing:**

Receipt of public comments on proposed USDA Rural Development project to acquire police vehicles, pickup trucks, dump trucks, garbage truck, asphalt roller/trailer and ballpark equipment.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council our Finance Director Amy Risher is going to make a presentation on the proposed USDA Grant application.

Finance Director Amy Risher stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council each year we take advantage of the USDA Rural Development Grant program and have received many awards in the past years. The current program provides 55% of project cost of the \$50,000. The City would like to submit 6 different applications to alleviate some of the burden off the 2023-2024 budget. The first one is for police vehicles in the amount of \$50,000. Next, we have a garbage truck for the Public Works Department in the amount of \$49,700, and a service truck for the Water Department in the amount of \$38,000. The 45% match would be \$221,000 which will be in the upcoming budget for the 2023-2024. The balance of the garbage truck would be financed for 5 years.

**Presentations:**

1. 2021-2022 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report- The Baird Audit Group, LLC- Ms. Brenda Carroll.

Ms. Brenda Carroll with The Baird Audit Group, LLC presented the audit. Ms. Carroll went through the audit and explained what each section pertained to.

**New Business:**

1. **Resolution # 2022-R-16**, A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE FORMS PURSUANT TO USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANT APPLICATIONS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$271,800 FOR THE PURCHASE OF POLICE VEHICLES, PICKUP TRUCKS, DUMP TRUCK, GARBAGE TRUCK, ASPHALT ROLLER/TRAILER AND BALLPARK EQUIPMENT.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Seconded by Councilmember Pryor

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

Councilmember Bridge asked, you were talking about the 5-year contract on the garbage truck. Is that beyond what was approved?

Finance Director Amy Risher stated that is correct. The total amount of the last garbage truck we purchased was around \$236,000 so minus the grant, that will be the balance that is financed on the garbage truck.

2. A PROCLAMATION TO DESIGNATE DECEMBER 2, 2022, AS ARBOR DAY IN THE CITY OF WALTERBORO.

Motion: Councilmember Pryor; Seconded by Councilmember Broderick

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

3. Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Calendar.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council you have in front of you the proposed Budget Calendar for the next fiscal year. The calendar has been reviewed by the budget committee and has unanimously been approved. Staff recommends Councils approval and adoption.

Motion: Councilmember Siegel; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

4. Consideration of a request from the Walterboro Shrine Club to close streets for the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade on Sunday January 15, 2023.

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Seconded by Councilmember Broderick

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

Mr. Herman Bright with the Walterboro Shrine Club stated that he would like to thank the city for their wonderful cooperation over the past 30 years. This is our 35<sup>th</sup> year and we look forward to each year and appreciate all the help we get from the City.

5. Consideration of First Thursday request for January, February, and March 2023.

Motion: Councilmember Fishburne; Seconded by Councilmember Pryor

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council you have in your agenda packet an email from Rilee Westbury requesting permission to close the downtown streets for First Thursday in January, February, and March. This request also includes adding carriage rides with Anthony Herndon. As City Council is aware our First Thursday events have been successful, and staff recommends approval.

6. Consideration of a request from B.I.R.T.H. to hold a 5k walk in downtown Walterboro on March 25, 2023.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Seconded by Councilmember Fishburne

Discussion: None

Carries: All ayes

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council you have in your agenda packet an email and a parade permit request for a walk on March 25, 2023. I have reviewed this with the Police Chief, and we can accommodate the request. Staff recommends councils approval.

**City Manager's Report:**

1. Introduction of New Fire Captain, Justin Wilz.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council we have our Fire Chief, Paul Seigler who is going to introduce our new Fire Captain, Justin Wilz.

Fire Chief Paul Seigler stated before I introduce our new Fire Captain, I would like to thank City Council for there support of the Fire Department and all that you for us, so that we can protect and serve our citizens of Walterboro.

Usually when we promote, we like to look within the department first, because that is where you are going to find people who care about there community. If you can not find someone inside, then we are not training our people correctly. We had 4 applicants for this position. We have gone through the process and came up with a fine person to do the job. This person separates himself with his dedication to his job. Every time we have a call especially a large call he is always there to help. He is one of those guys who is going to show up and be there all the time. He had been a first responder since he was 16 years old. He was an Ocean

Lifeguard in Charleston for 9 years, and a USLLA trainer for the county parks. He started his fire service career at St. Andrews Fire Department, where he worked for 7 years. In that time, he became a driver on the rescue truck and joined the Regional Response Team in Charleston. This allowed him to receive some special certifications in technical rescue, confined spaces, and structural collapses. During that time, he was also a volunteer with us for a year. During that year we got to know him well, then he moved to Tennessee. He worked in Tennessee for 3 years at a brand new fire department that was just starting up in Mt. Juliette Tennessee. He helped with the challenges of starting a new department. He has been with us for the last 6 years and has done a fantastic job. In total he has 16 years of firefighting experience. At this time Mr. Mayor, City Council members and Mr. Molinari I would like to introduce to you our next Fire Captain Justin Wilz.

**Executive Session:**

1. Personnel Matter: Police Department.

2. Potential Purchase of Property

A motion was made to go into executive session by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Bridge. Mayor Young explained that City Council would be going into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matter: Police Department, and potential purchase of property.

A motion was made by Councilmember Broderick, seconded by Councilmember Pryor to approve a step and a half salary increase for all employees of the Police Department, The Finance Director, Fire Chief, Utilities Director, and Public Works Director effective January 1, 2023.

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Councilmember Broderick, seconded by Councilmember Pryor.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Fishburne, and passed unanimously. Mayor Young adjourned the meeting at 7:27 P.M.

Notice of the meeting was distributed with the agenda packets, to all local media, posted on City Hall bulletin board and posted on the City's Website at least twenty-four hours prior to meeting time.

Respectfully,

Adriene Nettles  
City Clerk

**Approved: January 3, 2023**