

Walterboro City Council Regular Meeting

City Hall

March 5, 2024

Minutes

A regular meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday March 5, 2024, 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, Utilities Director Wayne Crosby, Kay Newsome, Dana Cheney with Keep Walterboro Beautiful, and Ashley Rhode with the Colleton County Rice Festival.

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 Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Public Input on Agenda Items:

There was no public input on agenda items.

Presentations:

Kay Newsome - Newsome Tract.

Ms. Kay Newsome, owner of the 180-acre Newsome Tract, gave a brief history on the property and discussed why she would like to sell the property for development.

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion of Councilmember Broderick, seconded by Councilmember Fishburne the following minutes were approved:

1. Rescheduled Regular Meeting – November 14, 2023.
2. Special Called Meeting – November 30, 2023.
3. Regular Meeting – December 5, 2023.
4. Regular Meeting – January 2, 2024.
5. Rescheduled regular Meeting – February 13, 2024.

New Business:

1. **Ordinance # 2024-01**, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WALTERBORO TO JOIN WITH THE WALTERBORO-COLLETON COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION AND COLLETON COUNTY IN CONVEYING 10.07 ACRES OF A PORTION OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE COLLETON COUNTY RECREATION CENTER, IDENTIFIED BY TMS # 132-00-00-028 TO COLLETON COUNTY (Title Only-Introduction and First Reading).

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council you have in your agenda packet an ordinance by title only as well as a map. This is the property located off Thunderbolt Drive that is part of

the County Recreation Complex. I was contacted by the county a couple weeks ago and they have secured a grant from SCPRT. All the properties surrounding were conveyed from the airport to the county. When they were going through the paperwork securing the grant, they learned that this parcel, TMS number 132-00-00-028 was still under ownership of the airport, which is jointly owned by the city and county. For the county to be able to secure the grant funding, the property needs to be conveyed to the county. The county asks that we give first reading to an ordinance by title only. There are still some things that the county will have to take care of before we can do second and final reading. The Airport Commission will also have to pass a resolution to at their March meeting. We ask for Council's favorable consideration.

Councilmember Siegel asked what is the grant for?

City Manager Jeff stated I cannot remember what the exact grant is. I do know it is for a sizeable amount and it is from SCPRT.

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Seconded by Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None

Carries: All ayes

2. A Proclamation to Designate April and May 2024 AS KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL/GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP MONTH.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Seconded by Councilmember Pryor

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

3. Council Internal/External Committee Appointments

Mayor Young asked are all these people asking to be reappointed.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated that is correct Mr. Mayor. At our meeting last month no one indicated that they wanted to change from where they are currently.

Mayor Young stated for the internal appointments I am going to appoint Judy Bridge as Chair, Paul Siegel, and Carl Brown as members of the Budget Committee. For the Fireman's 1% Fund, I am going to appoint Carl Brown. For the Airport Commission, I am going to appoint James Broderick. For the LCOG Board, I am going to appoint Ladson Fishburne, and for Keep Waltherboro Beautiful I am going to appoint Greg Pryor.

4. Consideration of a request from Coastal Empire CMHC to tie green ribbons on East Washington Street, and for use of the City Waterfall for Mental Health Awareness Month Kick off. May 1, 2024, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council you have in your agenda packet a request from Coastal Empire CMHC to tie ribbons on the street posts on East Washington Street to promote mental health awareness during the month of May. They also request to use the city waterfall for a kickoff ceremony on May 1, 2024.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Seconded by Councilmember Pryor

Discussion: None

Carried: All yes

5. Consideration of a request to close Fishburne Street between Church Street and Wichman Street for a wedding at the Little Library on April 6, 2024, 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council you have in your agenda packet a letter from Ms. Harper Downey with a request to close Fishburne Street between Church Street and Wichman Street for a wedding at the Little Library on Saturday April 6, 2024, from 4:00 to 6:30 PM. I have reviewed this with the Police Department, and they are comfortable with the request.

Motion: Councilmember Fishburne; Seconded by Councilmember Pryor

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

6. Consideration of 2024 Rice Festival Requests for April 23-27, 2024, Scott Grooms, Chairman Colleton County Rice Festival.

Ashley Rhode with the Colleton County Rice Festival Committee stated the only thing in the request we will no longer be pursuing is the soapbox derby. It is an event the Rice Festival has held before but talking with the insurance company there is just no way to make it safe. Everything else will continue as usual.

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Seconded by Councilmember Broderick

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

City Manager's Report:

1. Consideration of funding recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council you have in your agenda packet a memo and supporting documentation from the ATAX Committee. They met twice in February on the 15th and 27th. They considered five different requests.

The following are the requests:

1. SC Artisans Center – 2024 Ag + Art Tour

Requested: \$3,315 Approved: \$ 3,000

2. SC Artisans Canter – marketing partnership

Requested: \$18,000 Approved: \$6,000

3. Lowcountry & Resorts Island Tourism Commission – marketing and promotions

Requested: \$21,200 Approved: \$21,200

4. Colleton Museum & Farmers Market – WHAM! Festival 2024

Requested: \$22,184 Approved: \$15,000

5. Hiram E Mann Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc – Budget Revision

Requested: \$12,273 Approved: 0

At this time, nothing was recommended for funding. They are going to reapply and resubmit in June and that application will be considered by the A-TAX Committee then. Should these requests be funded as submitted the remaining balance for this fiscal year will be \$259,496.00. These funds will be up for consideration at the next meeting in June. The A-TAX Committee respectfully requests Council's favorable consideration.

Motion: Councilmember Pryor; Seconded by Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

2. Board and Commission Reappointments

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council, Adrienne reached out to all our Boards and Commission Members whose terms have expired this year. I am going to go through the list.

- **Accommodations Tax Committee**
Amar Patel (3-year term expiring January 1, 2027)
- **Building Board**
Clayton Stoddard (4-year term expiring January 1, 2028)
- **Historic Preservation Commission**
Michael Crowe (2-year term expiring January 1, 2026).
- **Tree Protection Committee**
Sue Tilden (2-year term expiring January 1, 2026)
Calvin Bailey (2-year term expiring January 1, 2026)
Mitzi Carter (2-year term expiring January 1, 2026)
- **Board of Zoning Appeals**
Kathy Peer (3-year term expiring January 1, 2027)
Mark McRoy (3-year term expiring January 1, 2027)
- **Municipal Election Commission**
T. Payton Crosby (6-year term expiring January 1, 2030)
- **Municipal Planning Commission**
Jimmy Syfrett (4-year term expiring January 1, 2028)

Staff asks for Council's favorable consideration of these reappointments.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Broderick

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

3. 2024 CDBG Prioritization

City Manager Jeff stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council, at the February City Council meeting, Kimberly Mullinax with the Lowcountry Council of Governments made a presentation on the Community Development Block Grant program for 2024. We are required to prioritize our projects. I am recommending the following based on the goals and objectives that City Council adopted at our retreat.

1. Public Infrastructure and Facilities

- Upgrades of water and sewer lines as needed.
- Other projects as identified.

2. Community Enrichment

- Demolition of properties that are attractive nuisances.
- Adaptive reuse of existing structures.
- Others as identified.

3. Special Projects as identified

- Trail connector for Wildlife Center and Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Other projects as identified.

4. Economic Development projects as identified

Staff asks for Council's favorable consideration of these priorities for the 2024 CDBG Program.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Councilmember Bridge, seconded by Councilmember Fishburne. Mayor Young explained that City Council will be going into Executive Session to discuss Matters concerning the proposed location, expansion, or provision of services encouraging location of industries or other businesses in the area served by public body. Personnel Matter: Main Street Manager/Tourism Director.

Executive Session:

1. Matters concerning the proposed location, expansion or provision of services encouraging location of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

2. Personnel Matter: Main Street/Tourism Director.

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Councilmember Fishburne, seconded by Councilmember Pryor, all in favor motion carried. There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Fishburne, seconded by Councilmember Brown, and passed unanimously. Mayor Young adjourned the meeting at 7:51 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,

Adrienne Nettles
City Clerk