

Walterboro City Council
Rescheduled Regular Meeting

City Hall

February 13, 2024

Minutes

A Rescheduled Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Pro Tem Paul Siegel presiding.

Present: Joined in the meeting were: Mayor Pro Tem Paul Siegel. Councilmembers: Carl Brown, Judy Bridge, James Broderick, and Ladson Fishburne. City Manager Jeff Molinari, Assistant City Manager Ryan McLeod, City Clerk Adrienne Nettles, City Attorney Brown McLeod, Utilities Director Wayne Crosby, Kimberly Mullinax with Lowcountry Council of Governments, and Sue Keith with the Colleton County Legislative Delegation. Mayor Young and Councilmember Greg Pryor were not in attendance.

Call to Order:

With the above – mentioned Councilmembers present, Mayor Pro Tem Siegel called the meeting to order, and invited everyone to join in as he gave the invocation. Councilmember Bridge led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Public Hearing:

1. CDBG Needs Assessment Hearing – Kimberly Mullinax, Lowcountry Council of Governments.

Kimberly Mullinax with Lowcountry Council of Governments gave the annual CDGBG Needs Assessment. Presentation. Ms. Mullinax went through each funding opportunity and gave a detailed explanation.

Presentation:

1. March 13, 2024, Colleton County Legislative Delegation Meeting Announcement – Sue Keith, Colleton County Legislative Delegation Office.

Ms. Keith stated good evening, Council, and citizens. The Legislative Delegation meeting will be held March 13, 2024, at 11 A.M. The main reason for this meeting is to fill some appointments for the Colleton County Board of Voter Registration. The following boards are up for election: Foster Care Review Board, Forestry Board, and a Trustee for the Technical College of the Lowcountry. If you are interested in applying for any of these positions, Jeff has my business card, and I will be glad to email you an application. I need to have all applications turned in by February 29, 2024.

New Business:

1. Nomination of Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Broderick stated I nominate Councilmember Paul Siegel as Mayor Pro Tem. Seconded by Councilmember Bridge. All in favor, motion carries.

2. Council Internal/External Committee Appointments.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mayor Pro Tem Siegel and members of Council, at the Council Retreat in January, Mayor Young asked City Council about our current external/internal committee appointments

and it seemed like everyone wanted to stay in the same place. Mayor Young will make those appointments formerly in March. If anyone has changed their mind, please contact Mayor Young.

3. Consideration of 2024 Juneteenth Festival and Parade June 14-15, 2024, Latosia Simmons, Chairman, Juneteenth Headquarters.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mayor Pro Tem and members of Council you have in your agenda packet a parade request to celebrate Juneteenth on June 15, 2024. One thing I want to mention is we spoke with Ms. Simmons and recommended that the best route for the parade would be the downtown parade route. The request will be for the downtown parade route and the use of the city parking lot for a cookoff competition on Friday, June 14th starting at 5:00 P.M.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Broderick

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

4. Consideration of a request from the Interdenominational Community Alliance to use the city parking lot for a fundraiser on Saturday, March 23, 2024, from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

Councilmember Bridge asked if it was ok for them to change the date from March 16, 2024, to March 23, 2024.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated yes, it is. I have already spoken with the church and there aren't any conflicts.

Motion: Councilmember Bridge, Seconded by Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None

Carried: None

City Manager's Report:

1. 2024 Goals and Objectives.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mayor Pro Tem Siegel and members of Council, on January 13, 2024, City Council held its annual strategic planning retreat. I am going to run through the goals and objectives that were set for 2024.

Expand Water and Sewer:

- Identify existing sewer lines without recorded easements (ongoing).
- Complete permitting process and begin construction on Exit 57 Trunk Line by December 31, 2024.
- Identify funding sources to upgrade Exit 53 sewer by June 30, 2024.
- Develop expansion plan for northwest Waltherboro water and sewer by December 31, 2024.

Improve Overall Appearance of City

- I-95 Business Loop Project Phase 3 – select engineer, begin design and engineering by April 1, 2024.
- Complete demolition of Ford dealership property by March 31, 2024; have a redevelopment plan completed by June 30, 2024; short-term beautification of nearby buildings by June 30, 2024.

- Apply for funding for middle school demolition by December 31, 2024.
- Finalize the timeline for the Ireland Creek project by June 30, 2024.
- Develop master plan for City Hall complex by September 30, 2024.
- Identify chronic litter violators (via committee) by December 31, 2024.

Growth Management

- Identify places for residential development to include workforce housing by June 30, 2024.
- Achieve donut hole annexation (Shannon Drive) through marketing city benefits, council member interaction and incentives by December 31, 2024.
- Increase traffic enforcement to reduce speeding by March 31, 2024.

Recreation/Tourism

- Complete design and begin construction (including burying utilities) of Water Tower Park by June 30, 2024.
- Complete construction on Phase 1 and begin design and engineering on Phase 2 of the boardwalk renovation project by September 30, 2024.
- Identify alternate site to be purchased for Southside Park and explore funding options by December 31, 2024.
- Gather information about adding a dog park by December 31, 2024.
- Install at least 2 EV charging stations by December 31, 2024.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

2. Consideration of bids for the demolition of two (2) buildings on the former Rizer Ford property and the Pinckney Park storage building.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mayor Pro Tem Siegel and members of Council, on January 30, 2024, the city accepted bids for the demolition of two (2) buildings on the former Rizer Ford dealership site and the Pinckney Park storage building. City staff recommends awarding the contract to Wilma's Pump and Tank Co., Inc. (Greenville, SC) in the amount of \$173,000.00. Funding for the project will come from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). City Staff asks for Council's favorable consideration of this request.

Councilmember Fishburne asked what kind of references did you get for this company?

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated we got six (6) references from six (6) projects that they have completed. We focused specifically on the projects that they did for local government entities.

Moton: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Broderick

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

3. Consideration of bids for tree removal for Phase 2 and 3 of the Walterboro Wildlife Sanctuary Boardwalk Replacement projects.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mayor Pro Tem Siegel and Council members, our Parks Director Jonathan Burroughs solicited bids for tree removal and cleanup for the next phase of the boardwalk replacement project. The project will eliminate potentially hazardous trees and debris prior to the construction of future boardwalks, trails, and bridges in the Wildlife Sanctuary. We received three (3) bids. City staff recommends awarding the contract to H2O Mitigation (Camden, SC) in the amount of \$59,500.00. Funding for the project will come from the 2022 local hospitality/accommodations tax bond issue. City staff asks for Council's favorable consideration.

The reason why we are bringing this to Council right now is because we have a limited window that we can get this work done. There is an endangered species, the long-eared bat in the Wildlife Sanctuary. This work must be completed between February 15th and April 15th.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Councilmember Broderick, seconded by Councilmember Brown. Mayor Pro Tem Siegel explained that City Council would be going into Executive Session to discuss Contractual Matter – I-95 Business Loop Project Phase 3 Design and Engineering, The provision of water and sewer service to Northwest Walterboro, and Personnel Matter – Appointment to Tree Protection Committee.

Executive Session:

1. Contractual Matter – I-95 Business Loop Project Phase 3 Design and Engineering.
2. The provision of water and sewer service to Northwest Walterboro.
3. Personnel Matter – Appointment to Tree Protection Committee.

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Councilmember Broderick, seconded by Councilmember Brown, all in favor, motion carried.

A motion to accept Joshua Bowers resignation from the Tree Protection Committee with regret and to appoint John Ulm to the Tree Protection Committee to serve the remainder of Joshua Bower's unexpired 2-year term was made by Councilmember Broderick, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Paul Siegel, all in favor motion carried.

A motion to award a contract to The LandPlan Group South in the amount of \$520,200.00 for the survey, design, and engineering for Phase 3 of the I-95 Business Loop Project was made by Councilmember Broderick, seconded by Councilmember Brown, all in favor motion carried.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Fishburne, and passed unanimously. Mayor Pro Tem Siegel adjourned the meeting at 7:50 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 the meeting.

Respectfully,

Adrienne Nettles
City Clerk