

Walterboro City Council
Rescheduled Regular Meeting

City Hall

July 8, 2025

Minutes

A Rescheduled Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 6:15 P.M., with Mayor Bill Young presiding.

Present: Joined in the meeting were: Mayor Bill Young, Councilmembers: James Broderick, Paul Siegel, Judy Bridge and Carl Brown. City Manager Jeff Molinari, City Clerk Adrienne Nettles, Finance Director Amy Risher, Utilities Director Wayne Crosby, Public Works Director Michael Crosby, and Deputy Police Chief Kevin Martin. Councilmembers Greg Pryor and Ladson Fishburne were absent.

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.

Public Hearing:

1. **Ordinance # 2025-10**, AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO TITLE 5, CHAPTER 3, SECTION 5-3-10, SUBSECTION 3, OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976 AS AMENDED, TO ANNEX AN AREA KNOWN AS TMS # 180-00-00-107 INTO THE CITY OF WALTERBORO, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (Second and Final Reading).

Approval of Minutes:

Upon of motion of Councilmember Broderick, Seconded by Councilmember Bridge the following minutes were approved:

1. Regular Meeting – May 6, 2025
2. Regular Meeting – June 3, 2025
3. Special Called Meeting – June 10, 2025

Old Business:

1. **Ordinance # 2025-10**, AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO TITLE 5, CHAPTER 3, SECTION 5-3-10, SUBSECTION 3, OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976 AS AMENDED, TO ANNEX AN AREA KNOWN AS TMS # 180-00-00-107 INTO THE CITY OF WALTERBORO, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (Second and Final Reading).

A motion to approve Ordinance # 2025-10, James Broderick, Carl Brown, second. Carl Brown, Judy Bridge, Paul Siegel, James Broderick in favor, Mayor Bill Young opposed. Motion carries.

New Business:

1. **Ordinance # 2025-11**, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE # 2025-06, SO AS TO SET THE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX CREDIT FACTOR IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 GENERAL FUND BUDGET (Introduction and First Reading).

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

2. **Ordinance # 2025-12**, AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO TITLE 5, CHAPTER 3, SECTION 5-3-10, SUBSECTION 3, OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED, TO ANNEX AN AREA KNOWN AS TMS # 179-03-00-221 INTO THE CITY OF WALTERBORO, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (Introduction and First Reading).

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council you have in your agenda packet an ordinance and petition for the annexation of 5 acres that J.H. Hiers is looking to expand their business on Green Pond Highway. We recommend first reading on this ordinance.

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Seconded by Councilmember Broderick

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

City Manager's Report

1. Consideration of a request to approve a contract to bury overhead utilities at Water Tower Park.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council you have a memo and supporting documentation for the undergrounding of overhead utilities for Water Tower Park project. On June 18, 2025, the city received one (1) bid and two (2) no bids to bury the overhead utility lines for the Water Tower Park Project. The project entails approximately 1,200 feet of directional bore, three handholds and converting five (5) services from overhead to underground.

The city can utilize its Non-Standard Service Fund to pay for half of the cost of the project. The city's share of the project is \$33,400 and can be paid from ARPA interest. Staff recommends awarding the contract to H & H Electrical Service, LLC (Walterboro, SC) in the amount of \$66,800.00.

Councilmember Broderick asked, can you tell us what the interest has been in the ARPA Fund?

Amy Risher stated it is \$250,000.00.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Seconded by Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

2. Consideration of a request to approve Task Order No. 24 for the Forest Hills Waterline Improvement Project.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council you have in your agenda packet a memo and supporting documentation for Hybrid Engineering Task Order # 24. The city received a \$1,340,143 grant from the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority to upgrade water lines in Forest Hills Subdivision. The project involves the replacement of 9,120 linear feet of 1 and 2-inch galvanized water mains with 6-inch water mains. The project will remove galvanized pipe in this area of the neighborhood and the increased line sizes with fire hydrants will increase pressure in the system and improve fire flow capabilities. The city's engineer, Hybrid Engineering, has provided a task order in the amount of \$125,490 to perform design, engineering, permitting, contract administration, and construction observation services for the project. Staff recommends approval of Task Order # 24 in the amount of \$125,490 to be paid from the Impact Fee Fund.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

3. Consideration of a request to purchase a backhoe for the Water Department.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council you have in your agenda packet a memo and supporting documentation from Utilities Director Wayne Crosby to purchase a backhoe. The FY 2025-2026 Water Department budget included the lease/purchase of a backhoe and dump truck. The Water Department solicited bids for the purchase of a Backhoe Loader and received three (3) bids. Staff recommends purchasing the backhoe from Blanchard Cat through the State Contract in the amount of \$147,359.67. The FY 2025-2026 Water Department budget estimated the cost of the backhoe at \$161,000.00. City staff asks for Council's favorable consideration of this request.

Motion: Councilmember Siegel; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

4. Consideration of a request to purchase two (2) patrol vehicles for the Police Department.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council you have in your agenda packet a memo and supporting documentation for the purchase of two (2) patrol vehicles. The FY 2025-2026 Police Department budget allocated \$163,000 for the purchase of two (2) police patrol vehicles. The Police Department received bids from two (2) dealers and (1) no bid. Staff recommends purchasing two (2) Chevy Silverado's from Cooper Chevrolet/GMC (Walterboro, SC) in the amount of \$100,700.00. Although the purchase price is \$2,508 more than the Ford F-150 Responders, the Chevy Silverado's have safety equipment already installed that reduces the overall cost compared to the Ford Responder. In addition, the Chevrolet is equipped with a V-8 engine and Ford is equipped with a V-6 Twin Turbo. The Ford engine has proven over time to be unsatisfactory with the stop and go driving style and idling times that are required to patrol the city. Any short-term savings would be quickly overtaken by repair costs to keep the vehicles in service. Both vehicles will require police packages that will run approximately \$30,000 each for a total cost of \$160,700.00 which is within budget. City staff asks for Council's favorable consideration of this request.

Motion: Councilmember Broderick; Seconded by Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

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

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council you have in your agenda packet a memo and supporting documentation from the A-TAX Committee. At its regular scheduled meeting held on June 19, 2025, the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee approved the following request:

- Walterboro Tourism Commission: Requested \$80,000, Approved \$80,000.
- Velos of SC dba Festivelo XXVIII: Requested \$ 38,667, Approved \$27,000.
- SC Artisans Center - Shop & Explore SC Art: Requested \$65,000, Approved \$56,000.
- Walterboro Tourism Commission - Walterboro Rocks! Advertising: Requested \$74,000, Approved \$74,000.
- City of Walterboro – Washington St Plaza/Veterans Mem Park: Requested \$80,000, Approved \$80,000.

Should these requests be approved as submitted, the projected remaining balance for 2025-2026 will be approximately \$235,783. The remaining funds will be up for consideration at the next scheduled meeting in October 2025. Therefore, the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee respectfully request City Council approve these items.

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Seconded by Councilmember Sigel

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

6. Recognition of Utilities Director, Wayne Crosby for attaining his South Carolina Class A Biological Wastewater Treatment Operator Certificate.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated it is my pleasure to recognize our Utilities Director Wayne Crosby. He recently obtained his South Carolina Class A Biological Wastewater Treatment Operator Certification. This is a big deal, there are not a lot of Class A Operators in the State. I just wanted to congratulate Wayne on getting this done.

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 Provision of services encouraging the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body: Lower and Middle Ireland Creek Sewer Trunk Line Improvement Project, Receipt of Legal Advice: Receipt of legal advice dealing with matters covered by attorney-client privilege, including potential or pending legal claims, and Personnel Matters: Municipal Court and Finance Department.

Executive Session:

1. Provision of services encouraging the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body: Lower and Middle Ireland Creek Sewer Trunk Line Improvement Project.

2. Receipt of Legal Advice: Receipt of legal advice dealing with matters covered by attorney-client privilege, including potential or pending legal claims.

3. Personnel Matters:
a. Municipal Court
b. Finance Department

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

Open Session:

A motion to appoint Mary Ann Blake as Associate Judge was made by Councilmember Siegel, seconded by Councilmember Brown. All in favor, motion carries.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Broderick, seconded by Councilmember Brown, and passed unanimously. Mayor Young adjourned the meeting at 7:30 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