Walterboro City Council

Regular Meeting

City Hall

June 2, 2026

Minutes

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 6:15 P.M. with Mayor James Broderick presiding.

Present: Joined in the meeting were: Mayor James Broderick, Councilmembers: Spencer Witkin, Carl Brown, Paul Siegel, Judy Bridge, Ladson Fishburne, and Jimmy Syfrett. City Manager Jeff Molinari, Assistant City Manager Ryan McLeod, City Attorney Brown McLeod, City Clerk Adrienne Nettles, Main Street Manager/Tourism Director Patricia Fleming, Pastor Tresco Shannon, and Boy Scout Troop 646, Campbell Burke, Benjamin Thompson, Tovyah Panza, Motseh Panza, and Benjamin Wilson.

Call to Order:

With the above-mentioned Councilmembers present, Mayor Broderick called the meeting to order. Pastor Tresco Shannon, Bethel United Methodist Church gave the invocation. Boy Scout Troop 646 led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Public Input on Agenda Items:

Nathaniel Cox with the Veterans Affairs stated he wanted to thank the City of Walterboro and the public for the support that they received during the Memorial Day Ceremony. He stated that it was a great turnout and again thanks the city for all they do for the veterans.

Public Hearing:

1. **Ordinance # 2026-01**, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 AND MATTERS RELATING THERETO (Second and Final Reading).

2. **Ordinance # 2026-02**, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 AND MATTERS RELATING THERETO (Second and Final Reading).

3. **Ordinance # 2026-03**, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WALTERBORO, SOUTH CAROLINA, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, TO INCLUDE CHANGES TO CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VIII BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (Second and Final Reading).

Approval of Minutes:

Upon motion of Councilmember Bridge, Seconded by Councilmember Fishburne, the following minutes were approved.

1. Regular Meeting – May 5,2026

Old Business:

1. **Ordinance # 2026-01**, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 AND MATTERS RELATING THERETO (Second and Final Reading).

Councilmember Bridge stated I would like to present the information for the 2026-2027 budget. This year's budget presented significant challenges. Under budget summary we are looking at a total city budget of $15,810,937, a General Fund budget of $9,836,002, and an Enterprise Fund budget of $5,974,935. There will be no ad valorem tax increase this year. A business license increase of 20 cents per $1,000 of revenue, and there is no water and sewer rate increase. Property and casualty insurance, which is SCMIRF, increased by 11.4%, workers' compensation insurance increased by 17.2%. Health insurance rates for the employer will decrease in January 2027. There is no increase in health insurance premiums for employees. The General Obligation Bond for $1.1 million, which is 4 mills, will be used to fund the following: Boardwalk Replacement Project - $800,000, Bill Young Park - $175,656, and Improvements to the Citizen Services Building - $74,343. The bond cost is $50,000. There is a proposed 1% cost of living adjustment for city employees. I do want to thank all the department heads, the Finance Director, and the City Manager for the work they have put into formulating this budget. Mr. Molinari is going to continue with the other part.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated I am going to give an overview of all the departments in the General Fund and Enterprise Fund.

Mayor and City Council

- Status Quo.

City Manager

- Status Quo.

Finance

- Status Quo.

Public Works

- Purchase of a new service truck with lease purchase.
- Purchase of a new dump body truck for yard debris with a lease purchase.

Planning and Development

- $25,000 allocated for demolition of substandard properties.
- Code Enforcement software.

Police

- Status Quo.

Judicial

- Moved Prosecutor from Mayor and Council budget to Judicial.

Fire

- Status Quo.

Parks

- Status Quo.

Tourism

- Adding back $33,000 for redesign of the city's website.

Wildlife Center

- Status Quo.

Water

- Status Quo.

Utilities Support

- Status Quo.

Sanitation

- Status Quo.

Sewer Support

- Status Quo.

Motion: Councilmember Siegel; Seconded by Councilmember Fishburne

Discussion: None

Carries: All ayes

2. **Ordinance # 2026-02**, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 AND MATTERS RELATING THERETO (Second and Final Reading).

Motion: Councilmember Fishburne; Seconded by Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

3. **Ordinance # 2026-03**, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WALTERBORO, SOUTH CAROLINA, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, TO INCLUDE CHANGES TO CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VIII BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS (Second and Final Reading).

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Seconded by Councilmember Syfrett

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

New Business:

1. **Ordinance # 2026-04**, AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT EXCEEDING ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ($1,100,000) AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY OF WALTERBORO, SOUTH CAROLINA, TO PRESCRIBE THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE PROCEEDS SHALL BE EXPENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF, AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO (Introduction and First Reading).

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council we have our Bond Attorney Lawerence Flynn here with us tonight. As Councilmember Bridge mentioned we are looking at doing another General Obligation Bond to fund several projects. The current General Obligation Bond was paid off in April. I am going to turn this over to Lawerence and let him explain the mechanics of the bond issue.

Lawerence Flynn gave an in-depth summary of how the bond works and what the city would be doing with the bond. Tonight represents the first step in that process. To borrow by way of general obligation debt, it has to be done by ordinance. The ordinance that you have in front of you tonight lays out the parameters of what we are planning to borrow. It does not exceed $1.1 million, and the second reading will be next month. Then there are some statutory processes that you have to work through. We will close the bond 60 days after the second reading. We are looking to get the money in our hands sometime in September. The reason for that is we want to make sure that we issue the debt in time. The orders in front of you basically delegate a lot of that decision-making authority to your City Manager to make decisions on the ultimate sale of the debt.

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Seconded by Councilmember Syfrett

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

2. **Resolution # 2026-R-07**, A RESOLUTION TO FORMALLY RECOGNIZE AND OFFER COMMENDATION TO CHIEF BARRY MCROY, COLLETON COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE, FOR 34 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF COLLETON COUNTY.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Syfrett

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

3. **Resolution # 2026-R-08**, A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE FINANCING TERMS FROM SOUTH STATE BANK FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2026 FORD F-450 CHASSIS CAB DRW AND A CAT BACKHOE 430.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council you have in your agenda packet a memo prepared by our Finance Director and a resolution. These are two pieces of equipment for the Water Department that were approved in the 2025-2026 budget with understanding that we would do a lease purchase. We had two local banking institutions respond. South State Bank was the lowest bid at 4.04%. We are required for Council to pass a resolution to approve these financing terms. We ask for Councils favorable consideration.

Motion: Councilmember Witkin; Seconded by Councilmember Siegel

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

4. Consideration of a parade permit request from Latosia Simmons for a Juneteenth Parade on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at 10:00 AM.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council you have in your agenda packet a parade permit request. I have spoken with the Chief of Police; this is the identical route they used last year. We ask for Council's favorable consideration of this request.

Motion: Councilmember Siegel; Seconded by Councilmember Fishburne

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

5. Consideration of rescheduling the July Regular City Council Meeting.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council I was talking with the Mayor trying to figure out our meeting date coinciding with the July 4th holiday. I believe the Mayor has a potential conflict in the week of July 6th. We would like to move the meeting date to July 14th if that is amenable with council.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

Committee Reports:

1. City Improvement Committee, Chairman Ladson Fishburne.

Mr. Fishburne stated there is not a lot to report this month. Some new cases were quickly closed, and there are some legacy cases that the city is still working on. We did have a large increase in residential cases mainly due to people reporting. So, we encourage if you see something, say something.

2. Walterboro-Colleton County Airport Commission, Jimmy Syfrett.

Mr. Syfrett stated there is nothing new to report at this time.

3. Budget Committee, Chairperson Judy Bridge.

Judy stated we did the final reading of the budget, and it was approved. It will go into effect July 1, 2026.

4. Keep Walterboro Beautiful, Chairman Dana Cheney.

Dana stated, Mr. Mayor, I apologize for not giving my report last month. I would like to report that the National Honor Society from Colleton County High School picked up trash all over town. They picked up a total of 154 bags.

5. Main Street Steering Committee, Patricia Fleming.

Patricia stated I have a quick report on Project Hometown. Last month we invited community members to apply to serve as Walterboro Ambassadors, we ended up receiving nine applications. All nine applicants were invited to participate. Tomorrow we will have a full day of training with the ambassadors and the project Hometown team at the Wildlife Center.

City Manager's Report:

1. Consideration of a Hotel Feasibility and Marketing Study proposal from REVPAR.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council, you have in your agenda packet a memo and supporting documentation for a feasibility study for the future development of a downtown hotel. We received responses from four (4) different firms, and two (2) firms were selected for an interview. We are recommending the selection of REVPAR International out of Alexandria, Virgina. They submitted a proposal in the amount of $34,100. As I indicated in my report, the Department of Commerce has graciously agreed to pay the difference of $9,100. We do not have to pull any resources from the Development Corporation, we ask for Council's favorable consideration of this request.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carries: All ayes

2. Consideration of Engagement Letter from Pope Flynn, LLC for the General Obligation Bond, Series 2026.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council you have in your agenda packet a memo and supporting documentation from Pope Flynn for bond attorney services for this 2026 bond issue in the amount of $27,500. This will be paid from the bond, we ask for Council's favorable consideration of the is request.

Motion: Councilmember Witkin; Seconded by Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Councilmember Bridge, seconded by Councilmember Fishburne. Mayor Broderick explained that City Council would be going into Executive Session to discuss Contractual Matter: I-95 Business Loop Phase 3, Discussion of matters concerning the proposed location, expansion or provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, and Personnel Matter: City Manager Contract.

Executive Session:

1. Contractual Matter: I-95 Business Loop Phase 3.
2. Discussion of matters concerning the proposed location, expansion or provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other business in the area served by the public body.
3. Personnel Matter: City Manager Contract.

A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Councilmember Fishburne, seconded by Councilmember Bridge, all in favor, motion carries.

Open Session:

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Bridge, seconded by Councilmember Brown, and passed unanimously. Mayor Broderick adjourned the meeting at 7:40 P.M. Notice of the meeting was distributed with the agenda packet, 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

APPROVED: July 14, 2026