

Walterboro City Council

Regular Meeting

City Hall

August 4, 2026

Minutes

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 6:15 P.M. with Mayor James Broderick presiding.

Present: Joined in the meeting were Mayor James Broderick, Councilmembers: Carl Brown, Paul Siegel, Judy Bridge, and Jimmy Syfrett, City Manager Jeff Molinari, Assistant City Manager Ryan McLeod, City Clerk Adrienne Nettles, Main Street Manager/Tourism Director Patricia Fleming, Police Chief Wade Marvin, Deputy Chief Kevin Martin, and Lieutenant Kevin Kinard, Craig Crosby, Founding and Senior Pastor, Refuge Church, and The Tuskegee Airmen, Hiram E. Mann Chapter. Council members Spencer Witkin and Ladson Fishburne were not in attendance.

Call to Order:

With the above – mentioned Councilmembers present, Mayor Broderick called the meeting or order. Craig Crosby, Founding and Senior Pastor of Refuge Church gave the invocation. The Tuskegee Airmen, Hiram E. Mann Chapter 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 # 2026-05**, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE # 2026-01, SO AS TO SET THE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX CREDIT FACTOR IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 GENERAL FUND BUDGET (Second and Final Reading).

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council every year City Council has to adopt the Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor for the tax bills that will go out in October. The Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor is calculated by taking our anticipated collections and dividing that by the total appraised value of property in the city. The Local Option Sales Tax Credit Factor for the 2026-2027 fiscal year will be 0.0022, which is very consistent with what we have had in the last few years.

Presentations:

1. Shiela Keaise - Community Innovations, 2026 Colleton Voice Winners.

Ms. Keaise with Community Innovations gave a summary of all the events that are going on and the upcoming events. She introduced the 2026 Colleton Voice Winner, Tatiana Ramos. Miss Ramos sang “Once Upon a Dream” for the audience.

2. Cody Cleary – Flock Cameras.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor, Mr. Cleary, has withdrawn his request to speak to City Council.

Mayor Broderick stated Mr. Smith would like to speak about flock cameras.

Mr. Smith stated that he is against flock cameras. He stated that it is an invasion of the Fourth Amendment, and how easy it is for people to hack the cameras and get personal information. I am asking you to address the issues that citizens are concerned with when it comes to the flock cameras.

Approval of Minutes:

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

1. Special Called Meeting – June 30, 2026.
2. Rescheduled Regular Meeting – July 14, 2026.

Old Business:

1. **Ordinance # 2026-05**, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE # 2026-01, SO AS TO SET THE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX CREDIT FACTOR IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 GENERAL FUND BUDGET (Second and Final Reading).

Motion: Councilmember Syfrett; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

New Business:

1. **Ordinance # 2026-06**, AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO TITLE 5, CHAPTER 3 SECTION 5-3-150, SUBSECTION 3, OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, AS AMENDED TO ANNEX AN AREA KNOWN AS TMS #147-05-00-044 INTO THE CITY OF WALTERBORO, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (Introduction and First Reading).

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council you have in your agenda packet an ordinance and petition and map of the parcel fronting Dandridge Road. The owner is requesting annexation into the city. It is my understanding that the property will be used for a drive-through coffee shop. The Planning Commission will review the zoning this month. They are

requesting a zoning classification of Highway Commercial District (HCD), and we ask for Council's favorable consideration of first reading to annex this parcel.

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Seconded by Councilmember Siegel

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

2. **Joint Resolution 2026-R-01**, THE WALTERBORO-COLLETON COUNTY AIRPORT TO AUTHORIZE 53 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LOCATED AT THE LOWCOUNTRY REGIONAL AIRPORT TO BE SOLD WITH THE NET PROCEEDS TO BE APPLIED TO DEFRAY THE CONSTRUCTION COST OF A NEW FUEL FARM.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council you have a joint resolution in front of you, as well as a plat and a couple of maps depicting the 53 acres. We ask for Council's favorable consideration of this joint resolution.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Syfrett

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

3. Consideration of a request from the Walterboro Rotary Club for the 12th Annual Ireland Creek Bridge Run to be held Thursday, October 22, 2026.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council we have a request from the Walterboro Rotary Club to use the area in and around Ireland Creek for their annual Island Creek Bridge Run to be held on Thursday, October 22, with a make-up date scheduled for Thursday, October 29th if needed. We ask for Council's favorable consideration of this request.

Motion: Councilmember Siegel; Seconded by Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

4. Consideration of a request from First Baptist Church to use the field for FestiVELO, November 1-10, 2026.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council you have in your agenda packet a memo from our Assistant City Manager Ryan McLeod, as well as a letter from First Baptist Church. They are requesting to use the lot behind the church for overnight campers, along with space for a shower trailer and host RV. This is the annual FestiVELO cycling festival that they have each year.

Motion: Councilmember Bridge; Seconded by Councilmember Syfrett

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

Committee Report:

1. City Improvement Committee, Chairman Ladson Fishburne.

Chairman Fishburne was not in attendance, Councilmember Brown gave the report. Councilmember Brown stated Corporal Lee Hanley retired from Code Enforcement duties on July 22, 2026. He has been replaced by Corporal Beecher Edgecomb. Corporal Edgecomb has hit the ground running and is doing a great job. The open commercial cases have gone down by two since last month, and the residential cases have gone down by five.

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

Councilmember Syfrett stated the milling of the old pavement is almost complete. The entire airport will be closed from August 11th at 6:00 PM through August 13th at 8:00 AM for the paving of the intersection of the runways. The project is on schedule. The temporary lights on Runway 35/17 are operational and are being used for night operations on the runway during the 5/23 rehab. At the Veteran's park grass/sod and vegetation have been planted and look nice. The park is going to be a great asset to the community. The Forestry taxiway rehab is complete, and staff are performing a summer house cleaning during the slow seasons.

3. Budget Committee, Chairperson Judy Bridge.

Chairperson Bridge stated there is nothing new to report.

4. Keep Walterboro Beautiful, Chairman Dana Cheney.

Chairman Cheney stated the South Carolina River Sweep will be held on September 19, 2026.

5. Main Street Steering Committee, Patricia Felming.

Patricia stated there was nothing new to report.

City Manager's Report:

1. Update on 2026 Goals & Objectives.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council in February of 2026, City Council convened for our annual Strategic Planning Session. I am going to run through a quick update on the goals and objectives that City Council identified at our annual retreat.

Downtown Revitalization and Economic Development

1. Build upon the guidance from the 2025 Strategic Plan from the SC Department of Commerce to advance improvements to the downtown of Walterboro

a. Utilize South Carolina Department of Commerce funding to commission a Hotel Feasibility Study to assess market potential and support future investment decisions.

The Hotel Feasibility Study is underway, and 100% funded by the Department of Commerce. The city selected REVPAR International, out of Alexandria, Virginia to conduct the study. REVPAR visited Walterboro in June and will be producing a draft report for our review in August.

b. Utilize SC Department of Commerce funding to install decorative string lighting throughout downtown to enhance aesthetics and walkability. City staff have communicated with our partners in the Main Street SC program and are evaluating different lighting options. This project can be completed along with the Washington Street Plaza Project.

c. Advance the Washington Street Plaza Project as a key public-space investment in the downtown core. City Council reviewed the plans for the Washington Street Plaza Project during the August 4th Council Work Session. Barring any major changes the project will go out for bid in August. We plan to get a recommendation to award a contract before City Council by October.

d. Move forward with planned improvements to downtown alleyways to enhance connectivity, safety, and visual appeal.

The city applied for an appropriation from the SC General Assembly in 2026 and was not funded. The city will continue to pursue funding sources for the project.

Land Use, Infrastructure, and Growth Management

2. Develop strategies for the (re)development of Priority Investment Areas (PIA's) within the city and in adjacent areas that support long-term economic growth.

a. Review the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) to identify potential amendments that promote high-quality infill development and consistent and commercial growth.

The first step is to identify Priority Investment Areas (PIA's). We recommend the Exit 53 corridor and downtown at the top of the PIA list. In June, the city submitted a request to the SC Department of Commerce to make the Exit 53 corridor census tract an Opportunity Zone. Code enforcement is also a critical component. Assistant City Manager Ryan McLeod will address residential and commercial components with the Planning Commission.

b. Conduct studies to assess current and future water and wastewater infrastructure needs within identified Priority Investment Areas.

The city has completed a study on the cost and feasibility of improving sewer capacity along the Exit 53 corridor. The total estimated cost is 12 million dollars. In March, the city learned that the late Senator Lindsey Graham had secured a federal earmark of \$2,983,000 for Phase 1 of the project. The city will also need to assess water and sewer capacity in the downtown area to support a future hotel.

Recreation, Tourism, and Community Engagement

3. Promote recreation and tourism opportunities both within the city and in surrounding areas to strengthen the local economy and quality of life.

a. Collaborate with regional and community partners to develop a comprehensive marketing strategy highlighting recreation and tourism assets, including the South Carolina Artisan Center.

The Walterboro Tourism Commission is a great vehicle for this collaboration – our partners include the Colleton County (Museum & Farmers Market, Colleton Civic Center, Colleton County Library, etc.), the Artisan Center, Colleton Chamber, Edisto Chamber and the South Carolina Lowcountry Resort Islands Tourism Commission.

b. Improve the City’s website to enhance transparency, expand communication with residents, and more effectively promote City initiatives and services.

The city issued an RFP for the website redesign and code enforcement software in July. Proposals are due Friday, August 7th. The next step is to interview firms and make a recommendation to City Council in September.

c. Work with partners to explore the feasibility of establishing a trolley system to improve access for City residents to the Colleton County Recreation Center.

I met with Hank Amundson at the Lowcountry Council of Governments, and he suggested that we partner with Walterboro Works, a Palmetto Breeze public transportation route that serves Walterboro. I asked Special Projects Coordinator, Austin Williams, to lead this effort. Tourist shuttle transportation is an allowable expense for State Accommodations Tax (65% money).

Intergovernmental Coordination

4. Align the City of Walterboro’s Comprehensive Planning efforts with those currently underway by Colleton County to ensure coordinated growth and policy consistency.

a. Facilitate regular joint meetings between Walterboro City Council and Colleton County Council to strengthen collaboration and address shared priorities.

The city had a joint meeting with Colleton County Council in March and looks to schedule subsequent joint meetings.

2. Consideration of Funding recommendations from the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council the A-TAX Committee met on June 25, 2026, and approved the following requests:

Request for 30% Designated Marketing Organization

Walterboro Tourism Commission Request - \$80,000 Approved - \$80,000

Request for 65% Tourism Fund:

1. Velos of SC dba Festivelo XXVIII

Request - \$41,000 Approved - \$41,000

2. SC Artisans Center – Shop & Explore SC Art

Request - \$70,000 Approved - \$35,000

3. City of Walterboro – Walterboro Rocks! Advertising

Request - \$90,000 Approved - \$90,000

4. City of Walterboro- Walterboro Wildlife Center – Event Hall

Request - \$30,000 Approved - \$30,000

Should these requests be approved as submitted, the projected remaining balance available for 2026-2027 will be approximately \$152,432. The remaining funds will be up for consideration at the next scheduled meeting in October 2026. Therefore, the A-TAX Committee respectfully requests for City Council to approve these items.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: Alla yes

3. Consideration of a request from the Utilities Director to purchase three (3) actuated valves for the wastewater treatment plant.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council, as you are aware, when we closed the Wastewater Plant Expansion Project out with EDA there were a handful of items remaining that we have grant funding to utilize. The three actuated valves are part of that. We are recommending purchasing three actuated valves from the Perkinson Company (Columbia, SC) in the amount of \$41,844.60 (including tax and shipping). City staff asks for Council's favorable consideration of this request. If you have any questions our Utilities Director Wayne Crosby is here.

Councilmember Bridge asked what do these valves do?

Utilities Director Wayne Crosby stated we have three new ultraviolet light disinfection streams, and the current operation now is a 14-inch valve with a hand wheel about as big as a 55-gallon drum. To get to the one in the middle, the operator must climb across from either direction. This is

more of a safety issue than anything. These actuated valves will operate it automatically without the operator having to do that.

Councilmember Bridge asked why these were not done during the process of the upgrade?

Utilities Director Wayne Crosby stated we closed out the project to be able to take full advantage of our grant funding.

Motion: Councilmember Siegel; Seconded by Councilmember Syfrett

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

4. Consideration of bids for the Forest Hills Waterline Project – Phase 1.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council, you have in your agenda packet a memo and supporting documentation from Utilities Director and our engineer for the first phase of the Forest Hills water line project. The project consists of replacing 9,205 linear feet of 6” water main, the installation of seven (7) fire hydrants and approximately 65 service connections. The city received bids from ten (10) contractors with a low base bid of \$1,099,563.25, with the inclusion of three (3) alternate bid items, the total bid price is \$1,134,343.25. We recommend the selection of Babcock Construction, LLC out of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina. Our engineer, Hybrid Engineering, has evaluated the construction experience and found that they have the experience and resources to complete the project. We recommend approval in the amount of \$1,134,343.25. I also point out that we are going to have approximately \$200,000 left over, and we have submitted a request to RIA to allow us to use that additional funding to do additional radio read meter installations.

Councilmember Bridge asked when will this project start?

Utilities Director Wayne Crosby stated if approved tonight, we will contact the contractor by the end of the week. Most of the contractors we spoke to during bid opening hope to start within the next 30 days after the job is awarded.

Motion: Councilmember Syfrett; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Bridge. Mayor Broderick explained that City Council would be going into Executive Session to discuss security personnel and devices, Personnel Matters – Appointment to Municipal Planning Commission, and Public Safety Committee.

Executive Session:

1. Discussion about security personnel and devices.
2. Personnel Matters:
 - a. Appointment to Municipal Planning Commission.
 - b. Public Safety Committee.

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

Open Session:

A motion was made to appoint Greg Pryor to the Municipal Planning Commission for a term ending January 1, 2029.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Brown, Seconded by Councilmember Siegel, and Passed unanimously. Mayor Broderick adjourned the meeting at 7:56 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: September 1, 2026