

Walterboro City Council

Regular Meeting

City Hall

September 1, 2026

Minutes

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, September 1, 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 Clerk Adrienne Nettles, City Attorney Brown McLeod, Main Street Manager/Tourism Director Patricia Fleming, Parks Director Jonathan Burroughs, Utilities Director Wayne Crosby, Nolan Thomas, Student Pastor, Faith Walterboro Church, and Colleton County High School National Honor Society Officers – Dehalani Griffiths, Hugo Ackerman, Zavion Bright and Chase Jones.

Call to Order:

With the above-mentioned Councilmembers present, Mayor Broderick called the meeting to order. Nolan Thomas, Student Pastor, Faith Walterboro Church gave the invocation. The Colleton County High School National Honor Society Officers led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Public Input on Agenda Items:

There was no public input on agenda items.

New Business:

1. **Ordinance # 2026-07**, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WALTERBORO, SOUTH CAROLINA, A SOUTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, TO INCLUDE CHANGES TO APPENDIX A, MEETINGS OF COUNCIL, SECTION 2.218 (4) (Introduction and First Reading).

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: Councilmember Syfrett stated we may want to look at putting something in there about a total time limit. I know you have it limited to three minutes (3) for each person, but maybe something that would limit to twenty (20) minutes or fifteen (15) minutes total time for public comments.

Mayor Broderick stated you are suggesting we have a total time of twenty (20) minutes for total comments. Do we need to make an amendment to the motion?

City Attorney Brown McLeod stated yes that it needs to be amended and a re-vote.

Mayor Broderick asked, “Would you like to make the motion with the amendment?”

Councilmember Syfrett stated yes. I would like to make a motion that we amend section 4 of section 2.218 to the total public comment not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes, seconded by Councilmember Bridge. All in favor, motion carries.

2. Consideration of a request from Associational WMN (Yellow Jacket Walk for School) on Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 8:00 AM.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council you have in your agenda packet a parade permit request and map showing the route. I have reviewed this with the Police Department, and we can accommodate this request.

Motion: Councilmember Siegel; Seconded by Councilmember Syfrett

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

Committee Reports:

1. City Improvement Committee, Chairman Ladson Fishburne.

Chairman Fishburne stated we met in August and looked over activity from June and July. We are continuing to search for a Code Enforcement Officer. Recent activity was primarily vegetation and signage. Those were opened and closed quickly. We are going to continue to coordinate with SAFEbuilt on the legacy properties, those long-standing cases that require additional attention. Once we get the Code Enforcement position filled, we should have an increase in activity and more closures.

2. Walterboro – Colleton Airport Commission, Jimmy Syfrett

Jimmy stated the airport had been busy with runway and taxi way repaving. The airport has been closed for about a week but should be open next week.

3. Budget Committee, Chairperson Judy Bridge.

Judy stated I do not have anything to report at this time.

4. Keep Walterboro Beautiful, Chairman Dana Cheney.

Dana stated that the community garden has been designated Wildlife Habitat form the National Federation and we have also been given the opportunity to do the pollinator census for this year.

5. Main Street Steering Committee, Patricia Fleming.

Patricia stated Project Hometown is completely underway. The dedicated website and digital ads are up and running. We have currently received nine (9) inquiries that our ambassadors are actively communicating with. The Project Hometown team will be here in October to do a detailed update on the project.

City Manager's Report:

1. Ireland Creek Greenway and Stream Restoration Project Update.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council you have in front of you a timeline for the Ireland Creek Stream restoration and greenway project. This was one of two projects that was approved through the Capital Project Sales Tax referendum. We have completed 60% of the design. SCDOT is going to require that we do a full reclamation of the section of Ivanhoe Road from Forest Hills Drive to West Washington Street. This portion of the road will be realigned per the plans for the project. If you recall, several years ago, the Colleton County CTC funded the resurfacing of Ivanhoe Road from West Washington to South Jefferies. I spoke with Carla Harvey last week, who is still working with the CTC on a contractual basis. They have not allocated any funding yet for fiscal year 2026-2027. So, I have asked her to include this in the request to go before CTC. She said that the CTC is not meeting in September but plans to meet in October. Hopefully we can defray those expenses through the CTC.

The project calls for two bridges. The main bridge goes over an area that was the former CSX Railroad, the second bridge is closer to Forest Hills Road. We have had a few conflicts with water and sewer in that area that we are currently working on to resolve. We had a call with the Army Corps of Engineers; they are very excited about the project and are going to be good to work with. One of the components of the project is going to be signs and storyboards throughout the greenway and are working on different designs with the landscape architect. We have several trees and invasive species that need to be removed, and we have been talking with a contractor to get that done before construction begins. All the grand live oaks that are along the creek will be preserved.

We are planning to have the drawings completed and submitted by mid-December and looking to put the project out to bid in April, and construction in June. We look to have the facility open in July of 2028.

Councilmember Brown asked are they going to bid on the job in October?

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated they will begin preparing the bid documents in October.

Councilmember Brown asked so there is a two-month span, and at the end of that they will bid it out?

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated so what they are showing is that it will go out to bid in April of 2027. The key variable here is SCDOT's approval of the realignment and geotechnical work for Ivanhoe and any additional reviews.

Councilmember Brown stated what I am reading is permitting and bidding is eight weeks. What is that bidding for?

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated what that means is that the process will take eight weeks.

Councilmember Bridge asked will this have any impact on the Wildlife Center? Will the paths be open?

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated I do not anticipate any impact on the Wildlife Center. Once the project is completed, we will have much better connectivity with Ireland Creek and the sanctuary.

2. Consideration of proposals for website redesign/code enforcement software.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council you have in your agenda packet a memo and supporting documentation for the redesign of the website. As you are aware, we have been working on redesigning the city's website in conjunction with software that will assist with our code enforcement efforts. We received twenty (20) responses to the RFP that was put out. Five (5) were selected for further consideration and we are recommending the selection of Civic Plus. They specialize in local government websites, and they offer much broader selection of services that the city can utilize, and they also have the best code enforcement portal. The cost for the first year is \$29,579.04, and we are proposing to enter into a four-year agreement. The total cost over a four-year period will be \$145,206.57. The 2026-2027 budget allocated \$33,000 for this purpose, and we ask for council's favorable consideration.

Councilmember Fishburne stated we have been talking about the code enforcement side for a while, and we have been talking about the website. I know it seems like a lot of money, but it is going to make the code enforcement position a lot easier and a lot more streamlined, including communicating with residents. So, I think it is worth the money. One question I do have, the other four did they have the same kind of package?

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated yes that was probably the biggest difference was that they all obviously offered the website portion, but the critical piece was the code enforcement side, and the others did not have that. So, in weighing everything we thought that Civic Plus was the best option, and they have the best user-friendly code enforcement portal.

Councilmember Fishburne stated with this type of subscription we will always be up to date, and they will know the latest updates and how to improve their services versus us getting and paying for a standard website. I hope you all will consider it.

Councilmember Siegel asked, going forward for the next year, are the cost similar to the first year?

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated you will see in the memo that Patricia provided; to meet this year's budget number we spread that out over four years. We will have ongoing expenses that we will budget for in the next three fiscal years. I will also add that the last update we did to our website was back in 2017. Also, keep in mind this is going to include the city's tourism website,

which is currently hosted by another company. With this website everything will be under one company.

Mayor Broderick asked if there is going to be an opportunity for citizens to give input on the website?

Patricia Fleming stated yes.

Motion: Councilmember Witkin; Seconded by Councilmember Brown

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 matters concerning the provision of services encouraging the location of businesses in the area served by the public body: Wastewater Treatment Plant, and SC Department of Commerce Rural Development Initiative. Contractual Matter: Walterboro Wildlife Center. Personnel Matters: Public Safety Committee, and Appointment to Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee.

Executive Session:

1. Discussion of matters concerning the provision of services encouraging the location of businesses in the area served by the public body.
 - a. Wastewater Treatment Plant.
 - b. SC Department of Commerce Rural Development Initiative.
2. Contractual Matter: Walterboro Wildlife Center
3. Personnel Matters:
 - a. Public Safety Committee.
 - b. Appointment to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee.

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

Open Session:

A motion to appoint Jim Castle to the Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee to fill Tal Glover's unexpired term ending January 1, 2028, was made by Councilmember Syfrett, Seconded by Paul Siegel, all in favor, motion carries.

A motion to approve an emergency re-roofing of the roof at the Walterboro Wildlife Center from Southern Roof & Woodcare in the amount of \$90,332.00 was made by Councilmember Witkin, Seconded by Councilmember Fishburne, all in favor, motion carries.

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Bridge, Seconded by Councilmember Witkin, and Passed unanimously. Mayor Broderick adjourned the meeting at 7:55 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: October 6, 2026