Walterboro City Council

Regular Meeting

City Hall

October 6, 2026

Minutes

A Regular Meeting of Walterboro City Council was held at City Hall on Tuesday, October 6, 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, Reverend Newman Lawrence, St. Jude's Church, and Libertas Academy Students.

Call to Order:

With the above-mentioned Councilmembers present, Mayor Broderick called the meeting to order. Reverend Newman Lawrence, St. Jude's Church gave the invocation. Libertas Academy Student led the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag.

Public Hearing:

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) (Second and Final Reading).

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council this proposed ordinance would amend Appendix A, Meetings of Council. It would allow for a fifteen (15) minute public comment period at council meetings and would restrict comments to three (3) minutes per person for an aggregate amount of fifteen (15) minutes.

Presentations:

1. Derek McDaniel, Dominion Energy, Neighborhood Energy Efficiency Program.

Mr. Derek McDaniel with Dominion Energy gave a summary of the Neighborhood Energy Efficiency Program and explained all the benefits that this program has to offer for homeowners who have Dominion Energy. The kickoff will start November 10, 2026.

Councilmember Fishburne asked how did you all determine the map?

Mr. McDaniel stated that the map is determined by Census block. The map determines where Dominion Energy customers live in a town or area that is 200% below the poverty line.

Councilmember Bridge asked this presentation that you are having, can you sign up for the service that day?

Mr. McDaniel stated that you can sign up at the kickoff event. If you cannot attend the event two weeks prior to October 27th, they will be mailing out letters and postcards to customers with a phone number that you can call and schedule an appointment.

Councilmember Bridge asked is there a time frame that you will be in Walterboro?

Mr. McDaniel stated that we will be in Walterboro starting November 10th through January 2027.

Mayor Broderick asked if it is open to every citizen in the City of Walterboro?

Mr. McDaniel stated yes it is.

Councilmember Brown asked so it is not open to the shaded area?

Mr. McDaniel stated yes and no. If a customer has a Walterboro address that's not included in the shaded area, we will get those customers as well.

2. Colleton Chiropractic, Dr. John Gallagher, free standing sign and homeless concerns.

Dr. John Gallagher presented information about the ongoing issues with his business sign that keeps getting hit by cars. Dr. Gallagher also expressed his concerns about the homeless camp that is behind his property. He is concerned about the safety of his patients when leaving the facility with the homeless camp behind his property.

Councilmember Brown asked City Manager Jeff have we done anything about this?

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated yes, we did. On two occasions the Police Department has been back there. Both times they went back there they did not see anyone, but this is on our radar.

Approval of Minutes:

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

1. Regular Meeting – September 1, 2026.

Old 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) (Second and Final Reading).

Motion: Councilmember Witkin; Seconded by Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

New Business:

1. **Ordinance # 2026-08**, 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 8, ARTICLE II, BUSINESS LICENSE ORDINANCE, SECTION 8-39 (b), APPENDIX A: BUSINESS LICENSE RATE SCHEDULE (Introduction and First Reading).

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of City Council, the fiscal year 2026-2027 General Fund Budget was predicated on implementing an adjustment to our business license rates of $.20 per $1,000 of revenue. To make this effective for the business license renewals that will go out after the first of the year, we need to amend the business license rate schedule to reflect that increase.

Motion: Councilmember Witkin; Seconded by Councilmember Brown

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

2. Consideration of a request from the Colleton Chamber of Commerce to hold its Annual Turkey Trot, Saturday, November 21, 2026, from 6:00AM to 9:30AM.

Dr. Massey stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council the Chamber would like to revive the old Chamber of Commerce turkey trot as an event this year. We want to help to bring awareness about staying healthy during the holiday season. As you can see, we would like to request the route of the Rice Festival Run.

Motion: Councilmember Syfrett; Seconded by Councilmember Fishburne

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

3. Consideration of a request from Tammy Lawton to use the Waterfall Plaza on Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM for a Kids Fashion Show at the Waterfall Plaza.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated that this request was deferred to another time.

4. Election of Mayor James Broderick as Voting Delegate at the 2026 National League of Cities City Summit. Mayor Broderick recused himself from the vote.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Fishburne

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

5. Consideration of a request for a temporary closure of East Washington Street between Lucas Street and North Memorial Avenue for First Thursday on November 5, 2026, from 5:30 – 7:30 PM.

Motion: Councilmember Siegel; Seconded by Councilmember Bridge

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

Committee Reports:

1. City Improvement Committee, Chairman Ladson Fishburne.

Chairman Fishburne had nothing to report at this time.

2. Walterboro – Colleton Airport Commission, Jimmy Syfrett.

Jimmy Syfrett stated that the airport is doing well with the runway revitalization project. All runways will be back open by October 15th.

3. Budget Committee, Chairperson Judy Bridge.

Judy Bridge had nothing to report at this time.

4. Keep Walterboro Beautiful, Chairman Dana Cheney.

Councilmember Fishburne stated that he spoke with Dana Cheney, he mentioned that they received a $10,000 grant for litter pickup. He is going to be working with Jonathan from the Parks Department and see which streets they need to focus on.

5. Main Street Steering Committee, Patricia Fleming.

Patricia stated there was nothing to report at this time.

City Manager's Report:

1. Northwest Walterboro Sewer Improvement Project – Exit 57 (SCIIP Grant)/Lower and Middle Ireland Creek Sewer Trunk Line Improvement Project (EDA Grant) Update.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council we have some major infrastructure projects under construction. The city secured $10 million to run a sewer trunk line up to Exit 57 along the old CSX railroad right-of-way. The contractor is in the process of relocating a water line that conflicts with the section of the new gravity sewer main. After the water line relocation is done, a small section of the new sewer main will be constructed along Hiers Corner Road to the Exit 57 overpass on Bell's Highway to complete the project. The city secured $10 million and all that money has now been expended. Anything above and beyond will be picked up

by the county. Keep in mind this project also funded extending sewer to the Colleton Mega Site. Along with this project, we also have another sewer trunk line project that will connect to this project. This is an EDA project where we secured over $5.7 million and this is upgrading the sewer trunk line from the treatment plant to Ireland Creek. We are approximately 74% complete with this job. If progress remains the same, construction should be done within the next 30 days. After construction, the new sewer main and manholes will be pressure tested and we will apply for a permit to operate. These two (2) projects are critical to bringing new development to Exit 57. There is a related project that we were hoping to do as part of this EDA project, but funding wouldn't allow. We did secure money from RIA to do a sewer rehab project along Ireland Creek. We have had issues in this area with inflow and infiltration, especially during heavy rain events. This specific project will address that by cleaning and camera sewer lines, making point repairs, and rehab along Ireland Creek. We will have the bid opening for that project later this month.

2. Consideration of bids for the Washington Street Plaza Renovation Project.

City Manager Jeff Molinari stated Mr. Mayor and members of Council you have in your agenda packet a memo and supporting documentation for the Washington Street Plaza renovation project. Last week we had a bid opening and had four (4) bids. One had to be dismissed as non-responsive. We are recommending awarding the contract to Wildwood Contractors from Walterboro, South Carolina in the amount of $763,044.78. We are recommending allocating the following funding sources:

SC Department of Commerce Grant	$175,000.00
Local Accommodations Tax Reserves	$155,280.00
Local Hospitality Tax Reserves	$155,280.00
SC Appropriation Act of 2025	$125,000.00
State Accommodations Tax	$80,000.00
State Accommodations Tax	$72,484.78

We are going to be going before the ATAX Committee this month to secure an additional $72,484.78. I am also going to ask the legislative delegation in January for $40,000 to defray some of these expenses. I will also be working to secure additional resources to lessen the impact on the city.

Motion: Councilmember Brown; Seconded by Councilmember Fishburne

Discussion: None

Carried: All ayes

A motion was made to go into Executive Session by Councilmember Bridge, seconded by Councilmember Siegel. Mayor Broderick explained that City Council would be going into Executive Session to discuss Contractual Matter: Walterboro Wildlife Center, Personnel Matters: Public Safety, and Discussion of Employment.

Executive Session:

1. Contractual Matter: Walterboro Wildlife Center.
2. Personnel Matter:
    a. Public Safety
    b. Discussion of Employment

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

Open Session:

There being no further business to consider, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Bridge, and passed unanimously. Mayor Broderick adjourned the meeting 7:24 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: November 3, 2026