

Minutes

Regular Council Meeting

May 1, 2012 at 6 p.m.

Members Present:

Joe Owens, Mayor
Boyd Jones, Mayor Pro-Tem
Abbott L. Bray, Jr.
Eric L. Fowler
Casey Jordan Hallman
L. Dale Harley
Tommy Parler
B.J. Unthank
Teddy Wingard

Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Myron Corley, Deputy City Administrator
Mardi Valentino, City Clerk
Brian Carter, Director of Planning and Zoning
Sid Varn, Director of Planning and Engineering
Donna Smith, Director of Economic Development
Rick Hodge, City Treasurer
Members of the Public and Press

Wyatt Coleman, Fire Chief
Dennis Tyndall, Police Chief
Ken Ebener, Municipal Judge
Stuart Jones, Building Official
Charles Garren, Director of Public Works
Matt Edwards, Police Major

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

Mayor Owens called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and noted a quorum was present. *The State, Free Times, Lexington County Chronicle, Cayce-West Columbia News, and The Columbia Star* were notified of the meeting by e-mail on April 27, 2012.

Agenda Item II – Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Fowler gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item III – Requests for Appearance

- A. Mayor Owens recognized Mr. Tim James, Vice President of the Lexington Medical Center Foundation. Mr. James briefed Council on an upcoming fundraising event sponsored by the Foundation called “A Wine Walk on the River.” Mr. James said the Women of Hope want to use the West Columbia Riverwalk Amphitheater to hold a wine-tasting event to raise \$25,000 for cancer programs. The event would take place at the end of June. Mr. James said he spoke to Police Chief Tyndall regarding security, containment, and clean up. He said the Foundation will use a beverage vendor with an Alcohol Beverage Control permit to sell the wine. He asked Council to give its permission to hold the event so the Foundation can move forward with promoting the Wine Walk. Mayor Owens recognized Council Member Fowler who made a motion to allow the event at the Amphitheater. Council Member Unthank seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

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Agenda Item III – Requests for Appearance (continued)

- B. Mayor Owens recognized Council Member Harley who spoke very movingly on the safe return of his son, Lee Harley, from the war in Afghanistan. Council Member Harley thanked all the people who prayed for his son and the other soldiers who are fighting overseas.

Agenda Item IV – Announcements by Mayor

- A. Mayor Owens stated the Budget Work Session would be held on May 21, 2012. He said he hoped the budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 would be presented without a tax increase or a water or sewer rate increase. He commended City Treasurer Rick Hodge for his hard work and stated that Mr. Hodge deserved a great deal of credit for compiling the proposed budget.

Agenda Item V – Approval of Minutes

- A. Mayor Owens entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the following council meetings: the Regular Council Meeting held April 3, 2012 and a Special Council Meeting held April 16, 2012. Mayor Pro-Tem Jones so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

- A. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for second reading consideration of the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve a map amendment to change the zoning classification of 1102 C Avenue (TMS# 004635-13-001) from C-1 (Intensive Commercial) to C-3 (Restricted Commercial). Council Member Fowler so moved and Council Member Unthank seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item VII – New Business

- A. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for first reading consideration of a request by the Senn Family to remove the remains of eight individuals buried in the Senn Family Cemetery currently located on the property of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Senn at 1002 Hook Avenue (TMS # 004666-07-006) for reburial at Mt. Hebron United Methodist Church. Council Member Unthank so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. Mayor Owens recognized Attorney Randy Davis who stated he represents Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Senn who live next to the Senn Family Cemetery. Mr. Davis explained that according to municipal statute the City Council needs to approve the removal of human remains. He said Mt. Hebron Church has agreed to accept the remains for reburial in its cemetery. Mr. Davis also noted that a legal notice was published in the newspaper and 30 family members were notified by letter. He said he received no response from family members and now requests permission to move forward with the reburial. Mayor Owens called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for consideration of an ordinance to annex 3.44 acres of unimproved property located as a parcel on the south side of Augusta Road near 17th Street (TMS # 004630-01-002). Council Member Unthank so moved and Council Member Harley seconded the motion. Mayor Owens recognized Ms. Donna Smith, Director of Economic Development, who explained that the property is completely surrounded by the city and would be assigned a C-2 zoning classification as other contingent properties on Augusta Road. Mayor Owens called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

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Agenda Item VII – New Business (continued)

- C. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for consideration to designate Tuesday, May 15, 2012 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day. Council Member Fowler so moved and Council Member Unthank seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for consideration to designate the week of May 20 through May 26, 2012 as National Public Works Week and Wednesday, May 23, 2012 as Public Works Day. Council Member Unthank so moved and Council Member Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for a bid award for the demolition of 1107 Sox Street to Carolina Wrecking, Inc. in the amount of \$8,800. Council Member Harley so moved and Council Member Hallman seconded. Mayor Owens recognized Ms. Smith who said the city obtained a Community Development Block Grant to demolish several abandoned houses. She explained the first bid is for the structure at 1107 Sox Street. Two bids were received with the low bid being submitted by Carolina Wrecking, Inc. for \$8,800. She said the staff recommendation is to accept the low bid by Carolina Wrecking, Inc.. Ms. Smith advised Council that the property owner signed a deferred loan agreement to repay the cost of the demolition if the property is sold within five years. Mayor Owens called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.
- F. Mayor Owens recognized Mr. Sid Varn, Director of Planning and Engineering, who stated that the SC Department of Transportation (SC DOT) is widening Laurel Road at Two Notch Road and is requiring the city to move the water lines at its own expense. He said that American Engineering Consultants, Inc. received six bids with the LAD Corporation of West Columbia submitting the low bid of \$332,193.00. After review of the bids, American Engineering Consultants, Inc. recommended that City Council approve the low bid submitted by LAD Corporation of West Columbia. Mr. Varn explained that the main water line on Laurel Road feeds the Laurel Road Water Tank and it will cost additional money to relocate the main water line while not taking the line out of service. Mayor Owens recognized Council Member Parler who made a motion to pass a resolution authorizing the mayor to award a contract in the amount of \$332,193.00 for the construction of the Laurel Road and Two Notch Road water lines relocation to LAD Corporation of West Columbia as the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. Council Member Unthank seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- G. Mayor Owens recognized Ms. Smith who advised Council that the city has collected more than \$50,000 in Accommodations Tax Funds. She explained that the Accommodations Tax Committee met on April 24, 2012 to consider qualified applications for the Accommodations Tax Funds. She said the Committee unanimously approved funding for the West Metro Visitors' Center in the amount of \$7,500 after hearing a presentation by the applicant. She said the project falls under the category of "Advertising and Promotion of Tourism" and the funds will be used for printing additional tourism brochures, web advertisements in national magazines, and a booth display for trade shows. Ms. Smith stated the project meets all regulations under Chapter 4, Title 6 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. She said the Accommodations Tax Committee recommends that Council approve funding for the West Metro Visitors' Center in the amount of \$7,500. Council Member Fowler so moved and Council Member Unthank seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Agenda Item VII – New Business (continued)

H. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for consideration to accept a subdivision agreement and a letter of credit in the amount of \$156,371.54 from Brookcrest Development, LLC for Brookland Mill Phase One Cluster Housing Development located on Hook Avenue (TMS # 004666-05-014). Council Member Parler so moved and Council Member Fowler seconded. Mayor Owens recognized Mr. Brian Carter, Director of Planning and Zoning, who advised Council that the Planning Commission reviewed and approved the bonded plat on April 23, 2012 as well as the landscaping plan for the common areas. Mr. Carter noted that the city attorney reviewed the subdivision agreement and the letter of credit. City Engineer Sid Varn reviewed the water and sewer plan for the subdivision. He said if Council approves the agreement and letter of credit then the developer can begin to sell lots. Mayor Owens called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item VIII – Adjourn to Executive Session for a Contractual Matter

Mayor Owens entertained a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss a contractual matter. Council Member Unthank so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned to executive session at 6:38 p.m.

Agenda Item IX – Reconvene to Regular Session

Mayor Owens entertained a motion to adjourn executive session and reconvene to regular session. Council Member Unthank so moved and Council Member Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council reconvened to regular session at 6:48 p.m. Mayor Owens stated that no action was taken in executive session.

Mayor Owens recognized Council Member Fowler who made a motion to pay singer/songwriter Rob Crosby an extra \$1,000 for his performance at the Riverwalk Music Festival held April 21, 2012. Council Member Unthank seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mayor Owens said Mr. Crosby did an outstanding job at the concert and deserved a bonus for providing such an enjoyable concert.

Agenda Item X – Adjourn

Mayor Owens asked if there was any further business to discuss and received no response. Mayor Owens entertained a motion to adjourn. Council Member Unthank so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta M. Valentino, CMC
City Clerk