

City of West Columbia, SC

Regular Council Meeting

May 4, 2010 at 6 p.m.

Members Present:

Bobby E. Horton, Mayor
Jack L. Harmon, Mayor Pro-Tem
Eric L. Fowler
L. Dale Harley
Boyd J. Jones
Marsha J. Moore
Tommy G. Parler

Members Absent:

B.J. Unthank, out of town
Cathy Shannon

Others Present:

Jenny Cunningham, City Administrator
Mardi McKinnon, City Clerk
Bryan Carter, Planning & Zoning Director
Donna Smith, Economic Development Director
Sid Varn, Planning & Engineering Director
Members of the Public and Press

Stuart Jones, Building Official
Dennis Tyndall, Police Chief
Wyatt Coleman, Fire Chief
Charles Garren, Public Works Director
Rick Hodge, City Treasurer

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

Mayor Horton 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 public hearing by e-mail on April 30, 2010.

Agenda Item II – Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Agenda Item III – Requests for Appearance

- A. Mayor Horton recognized Ms. Rachel Stansfield, State Ambassador for the South Carolina 4-H Club, who gave a brief update on the 4-H programs in Lexington County. Ms. Stansfield stated that over 100 years ago the U.S. Department of Agriculture established the 4-H Club with the mission of “engaging youth to reach their fullest potential while advancing the field of agriculture.” She said 4-H represents four personal development areas of focus for the organization: head, heart, hands and health to develop citizenship, leadership and life skills. She explained there are 14 active community clubs with various activities such as horses, shooting and gardening, but other clubs focus on science, engineering and technology programs. She noted that the 4-H Club has had a positive influence on her life and has taught her the importance of volunteerism. Mayor Horton commended Ms. Stansfield on her involvement with the 4H Club.
- B. Mayor Horton recognized Mr. Greg Dahl who stated he is a mental health clinician with the Lexington County Department of Mental Health. Mr. Dahl expressed his concern about residents living in apartments on Leaphart Road who use the bus system to travel to jobs, vocational rehabilitation, Midlands Technical College and doctors’ appointments. He said if bus routes are eliminated in Cayce and West Columbia then the only alternative for these people is to use cabs to get to work or ambulances to get to the hospital for medical assistance. He said Lexington County is willing to support the bus system, but Cayce and West Columbia have contributed no money to support the system.

Mayor Horton recognized Ms. Rose Lopez, Chief Financial Officer of Growing Homes Southeast, who said she represented tenants who live at Leaphart Place on Leaphart Road and need transportation to access jobs and stores. She requested that Council consider funding a portion of the bus system.

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Agenda Item III – Requests for Appearance (continued)

Mayor Horton stated that the people living in the apartments on Leaphart Road are not city residents, but live in the unincorporated area of Lexington County. He said that the West Columbia City Council would consider how to meet the needs of the West Columbia residents, but Mr. Dahl needed to address the transportation needs of the county residents with Lexington County officials. He said the city held two public hearings at the West Columbia City Hall in recent years and the primary concerns were voiced from people who did not live in the city but came through the city from other places. Mayor Horton said if the Central Midlands Regional Transportation Authority (CMRTA) discontinues service to West Columbia then the Council will determine how to assist those city residents.

Mayor Horton recognized Mr. Elmer Frick, who stated he has lived at 1108 Evergreen Avenue for over 50 years. He said he was told by city officials that when the sewer line repairs were completed along E Avenue that the sides of the road would be returned to that way it was before the construction work. He explained the street now has a 12 to 16 inch lower elevation than before the sewer line construction and the shoulder does not have a 30 to 45 degree angle for storm water to drain. He asked Council to correct the problem on his property and for the neighbors who live on either side of him. Mr. Frick said he already has spoken with Council Member BJ Unthank and Utilities Director Joe Owens. Mayor Horton responded that the contractor doing the sewer line repairs had to dig down 23 feet to reach the sewer line, which complicated the repair work. Mayor Horton recognized City Administrator Jenny Cunningham who said she would contact the contractor responsible for the sewer line repairs on E Avenue to determine what could be done to resolve Mr. Frick's concerns about the elevation of the road.

Agenda Item IV – Announcements by Mayor

Mayor Horton announced the City of West Columbia will conduct a city-wide clean up day on May 15. Mayor Horton stated that on Monday, May 17, 2010 the Mayor's Round Table Meeting would be held at 5:30 and the Council Work Session at 6 p.m. in the New Brookland Room. He said the Planning Commission will meet on Monday, May 24, 2010 at 6 p.m.

Agenda Item V – Approval of Minutes

- A. Mayor Horton entertained a motion to approve minutes for the Special Council Meeting held April 19, 2010. Council Member Parler so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Harmon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item VI – New Business

- A. Mayor Horton entertained a motion for first reading consideration of an ordinance to annex 1.87 acres of property located along 9th Street between E Avenue and G Avenue at the South Carolina Episcopal Home at Still Homes. Council Member Moore so moved and Council Member Harley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Mayor Horton entertained a motion for first reading consideration of the Planning Commission's recommendation to establish the zoning classification for approximately 1.04 acres of recently annexed property located at 2001 Morningside Drive (TMS # 004668-01-003) as R-4 (low density residential). Mayor Pro-Tem Harmon so moved and Council Member Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Mayor Horton entertained a motion for first reading consideration of the Planning Commission's recommendation to establish the zoning classification for .74 acres of recently annexed property located at 221 Hammond Avenue (TMS # 004628-03-018) as R-2 (medium density residential). Council Member Parler so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Harmon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Agenda Item VI – New Business (continued)

- D. Mayor Horton entertained a motion for consideration of the proclamation to designate the week of May 16 – May 22, 2010 as National Public Works Week and Wednesday, May 19, 2010 as Public Works Day. Council Member Harley so moved and Council Member Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item VII – Adjourn to Executive Session for a Personnel Matter to Discuss Board Appointments

Mayor Horton entertained a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss board appointments. Council Member Moore so moved and Council Member Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned to executive session at 6:40 p.m.

Agenda Item VIII – Reconvene to Regular Session

Mayor Horton entertained a motion to adjourn executive session and reconvene to regular session. Council Member Moore so moved and Council Member Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council reconvened at 7:05 p.m. Mayor Horton stated no action was taken in executive session.

Agenda Item IX – Board Appointments to the Planning Commission

Mayor Horton entertained a motion to appoint/reappoint Harold Prater and to appoint Heyward Wessinger, Larry Miller and Bill Mooneyhan to the West Columbia Planning Commission for four-year terms expiring in May 2014. Council Member Harley so moved and Council Member Moore seconded. Mayor Horton and Council Members Fowler, Harley, Jones and Moore voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Pro-Tem Harmon and Council Member Parler voted in opposition. The motion passed five votes to two votes.

Agenda Item X – Board Appointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals

Mayor Horton entertained a motion to reappoint Richard Kuppens to the West Columbia Zoning Board of Appeals for a three-year term expiring in May 2013. Council Member Fowler so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Harmon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item XI – Adjourn

Mayor Horton entertained a motion to adjourn. Council Member Fowler so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Harmon seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta Valentino McKinnon, CMC
City Clerk