

Regular Council Meeting

February 7, 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
Charles Garren, Director of Public Works

Wyatt Coleman, Fire Chief
Rick Hodge, City Treasurer
Ken Ebener, Municipal Judge
Stuart Jones, Building Official
Dennis Tyndall, Police Chief
Members of the Public and Press

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 February 2, 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 Mrs. Angela McGee, Director of Ruth’s Pantry, who stated that her husband, Reverend Tracy McGee, is the pastor of Suburban Baptist Church located at 1700 Holland Street in West Columbia. She explained that most members of the congregation live within the city limits, especially in the neighborhood around Gentle Pines Apartments. Many children come from low-income families with one or no parents at home, while some children are homeless. Mrs. McGee said the church tries to provide programs on Sundays and Wednesday nights to teach the children social skills and to value education in order to become better citizens. Mrs. McGee asked Council to consider financial support to provide food for the children’s programs on Wednesday nights. She said over 90 children participate in the programs, which offer alternatives to truancy, gang membership, and addiction by embracing sobriety, mentoring and church leadership.

Mayor Owens asked Mrs. McGee to put her request in writing so that council members could consider her appeal for funding at the next council work session.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2012

Page Two

Agenda Item III – Requests for Appearance

- B. Mayor Owens recognized Mr. Tim Goldman, an investment advisor with MetLife, who briefed Council on the MetLife Crazy 8 Bridge Run scheduled for Saturday, June 2, 2012. Mr. Goldman stated that the 8K race will begin at 8:30 a.m. in downtown Columbia and runners will finish at the Colonial Life Arena. The course incorporates the Blossom Street Bridge, Knox Abbott Drive, State Street, and the Gervais Street Bridge, which is a route previously used in 2009. He explained the charitable event will raise money for causes focused on youth, family and the community. Mr. Goldman said he already spoke with Lt. John Norman regarding the event and was told he needed the Council's approval.

Mayor Owens stated that Council would take Mr. Goldman's request under advisement in order for Lt. Norman to verify that the race course meets all criteria for such an event.

- C. Mayor Owens recognized Mr. Ed Harrington, who stated that he represents Animal World, a business located at 621 12th Street in Triangle City. He commended the city's beautification efforts over the past two years to improve the business area in Triangle City with landscaping and parking improvements. He said his concern is the parking for businesses located on the eastern side of the block between B Avenue and C Avenue. When the city made improvements to the parking lot the entire area was designated as public parking. Mr. Harrington said parking should be for customers of the businesses in that area. Employees who work across the street park their vehicles in that lot all day taking up spaces customers could use. He said a karate school located in that block regularly takes up 12 to 15 spaces when classes are held and uses three parking spaces for its bus that transports children to karate classes after school. He said at times the karate school owner will block off half the parking lot so the children can do outdoor exercises. Mr. Harrington acknowledged there was no easy way to resolve the problem, but spaces should be available for customers of those businesses and employees across the street need to park behind the businesses where they work. He emphasized that if the problem is not resolved then businesses will have to return to designating certain parking places for stores and towing the cars of people who do not shop at those businesses.

Mayor Owens asked Police Chief Dennis Tyndall and Brian Carter, Director of Planning and Zoning, and to discuss the parking problems that Triangle City business owners along 12th Street are experiencing to see what solutions could be found.

Agenda Item IV – Announcements by Mayor

- A. Mayor Owens recognized the following employees: Police Officer of the Year: David Myers, Detective II; Police Civilian Employee of the Year: Nanci Cirmella, Administrative Coordinator; Police Integrity Award: Sgt. Johnny Dollar; and Fire Fighter of the Year: Jimmy Patrick, Firefighter II.

Agenda Item V – Approval of Minutes

- A. Mayor Owens entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held January 3, 2012. Council Member Unthank so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2012

Page Three

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

- A. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for second reading consideration of an ordinance to annex certain roadways contiguous to city boundaries located at North Hook Avenue, Sunset Boulevard, Chris Drive, Morningside Drive, Leaphart Road, Wade Street, Thornton Avenue, Crapps Avenue, Taylor Street, West Street, South Street and Moffatt Street. Council Member Parler so moved and Council Member Bray seconded. Mayor Owens recognized Ms. Donna Smith, Director of Economic Development, who said while reviewing city boundaries she noticed some roadways entirely surrounded by the city, but not in the corporate city limits. She sent a request to the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) to allow the city to annex the roadways for better service provision and quicker response for emergency services. Ms. Smith said under state law the city only needs a letter of consent from SCDOT agreeing to the annexation request, which she received from the State Secretary of Transportation. Ms. Smith noted council took first reading on January 3, 2012. Mayor Owens called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item VII – New Business

- A. Mayor Owens recognized Mayor Pro-Tem Jones who made a motion to appoint Mayor Owens as the city's representative to the Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission. Council Member Bray seconded the motion. Mayor Owens recognized Council Member Parler who asked why Council Member Harley was being replaced as the city's representative to the Joint Commission. He stated that Mr. Harley served a long time with distinction on the Joint Commission Board and currently is the chairman. Council Member Parler said he was not aware that Council Member Harley asked to step down from the position. Mayor Owens stated that he also served many years on the Joint Commission and was chairman when he was required to resign from the board after he took office as a Lexington County council member. He said the state attorney general's office issued an opinion that he could not hold both offices at the same time. Mayor Owens stated that most towns that are members of the Joint Commission are represented by mayors.

Mayor Owens called for the vote. Council Member Parler asked that the vote be taken by a show of hands. Mayor Owens, Mayor Pro-Tem Jones and Council Members Bray, Fowler, Hallman, Unthank and Wingard voted in favor of the motion. Council Members Harley and Parler voted in opposition. The motion passed seven votes to two votes.

- B. Mayor Owens entertained a motion to consider a resolution to adopt an update to the All Natural Hazards Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan for the Central Midlands Region of South Carolina. Mayor Pro-Tem Jones so moved and Council Member Hallman seconded. Mayor Owens recognized Mr. Brian Carter, Director of Planning and Zoning, who gave a brief review of the plan. Mr. Carter said the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) requires the city to update its All Natural Hazards Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan every five years. He said the plan was revised with the assistance of the Central Midlands Council of Governments to include updated hazard data and Census 2010 data. Mr. Carter noted that five of the ten goals adopted in the 2009 plan were removed because they were either already covered in the plan or considered no longer of importance. Mr. Carter explained there are 23 agencies involved in the plan and the governing body for each agency must approve the updated plan. Mayor Owens called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2012

Page Four

Agenda Item VII – New Business (continued)

- C. Mayor Owens entertained a motion to appoint seven members to the newly created West Columbia Accommodations Tax Committee. Council Member Unthank made a motion, which Mayor Pro-Tem Jones seconded, to appoint the following members:

Hospitality Industry:

Ms. Raven Yonemura, Director of Marketing with Holiday Inn & Suites

Mr. Gee Austin, General Manager, Quality Inn

Ms. Anastasia Manos, Zesto and Grecian Gardens Restaurants

Mr. Dan Ward, Zaxby's Restaurant

Cultural Organization:

Ms. Gale McLeod, Saluda River Academy for the Arts

Other Industries:

Mr. Mike Mayo, Palmetto Outdoors Sports

Mr. Steve Rabon, Paper Pro

Mayor Owens recognized Ms. Donna Smith, Director of Economic Development, who explained that the city has exceeded the \$50,000 a year threshold in collected accommodations taxes, which requires the city to set up an Accommodations Tax Committee. She said the purpose of the committee is to review applications to fund projects that will promote tourism in the city and to make recommendations to Council for funding approval. The funds for the projects will come from the Tourism-Related Funds, which is the balance remaining after the required appropriations are made to the city's General Fund and the Promotional Fund. Ms. Smith stated the deadline for receiving applications for this year's allocation is April 2, 2012. The guidelines and application will be posted on the city's website with links to the West Metro Visitor's Center and the West Metro Chamber of Commerce. Notification of the application deadline will be published in the Sunday, February 12, 2012 edition of *The State* newspaper.

Ms. Smith explained that the S.C. Code of Laws requires the Accommodations Tax Committee to be comprised of four members from the hospitality industry, of which at least two members must be from the lodging industry, one member must represent cultural organizations and the remaining two members should be community leaders with experience and interest in tourism. Ms. Smith said the seven people recommended for appointment are from industries that meet the parameters ascribed by law. She noted the appointments do not carry any terms of service because the members would meet once a year to review and to recommend applications for funding to Council. Mayor Owens called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

- D. Mayor Owens recognized Mr. Sid Varn, Director of Planning and Engineering, who stated that the SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) is making road improvements and installing a traffic circle at the Laurel Road and Old Two Notch Road intersection. The city has four water lines in highway-right-of-way that must be relocated at the city's expense. He recommended approving American Engineering Consultants, Inc. to do the engineering design work on the water line relocation at a cost of \$37,900.00. Mayor Owens entertained a motion to approve American Engineering Consultants, Inc. to engineer relocating the water lines at a cost of \$37,900.00. Council Member Unthank so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2012

Page Five

Agenda Item VII – New Business (continued)

- E. Mayor Owens entertained a motion to approve multi-jurisdictional agreements with the Lexington County Sheriff's Department, the Town of Springdale Police Department and the City of Cayce Public Safety Department. Council Member Unthank so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Jones seconded. Mayor Owens recognized Police Chief Dennis Tyndall who explained that the multi-jurisdictional agreements would allow the West Columbia officers to work with the Lexington-Richland Alcohol Drug Abuse Council (LRADAC) on combined police actions. Mayor Owens called for the vote and the motion passed unanimously.
- F. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for the sole source purchase of fleet management software from Ron Turley Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$17,765.00. Council Member Bray so moved and Council Member Unthank seconded. Mayor Owens recognized Mr. Rick Hodge, City Treasurer, who briefly explained why a sole source purchase was necessary to procure fleet management software. He said Public Works Director Charles Garren requested purchasing software to better manage fleet costs by tracking the actual costs to operate each city vehicle. After researching four different software packages it became evident that the software offered by Ron Turley Associates (RTA) would be the best program due to the unique relationship between RTA, GasBoy and InCode. Mr. Hodge explained that the city utilizes GasBoy, a vehicle fuel software program, and InCode, a financial and accounting application software. He said that RTA's fleet management software would seamlessly interface with GasBoy and InCode. Mr. Hodge also stated that the cost of the RTA software is lower than the other programs Mr. Garren examined.

Mr. Hodge recommended that Council approve a sole source purchase of the RTA fleet management software at the cost of \$17,765.00 due to its high compatibility with the GasBoy and InCode software programs currently used by the city. Mayor Owens called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item VIII – Adjourn

Mayor Owens asked if there was any further business to discuss and received no response. Mayor Owens entertained a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro-Tem Jones so moved and Council Member Unthank seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta M. Valentino, CMC
City Clerk