

Regular Council Meeting
Following the Public Hearing on the Budget at 6 p.m.

June 5, 2012

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
Teddy Wingard

Members Absent:

B.J. Unthank

Others Present:

Jenny Cunningham, City Administrator
Mardi Valentino, City Clerk
Donna Smith, Director of Economic Development
Sid Varn, Director of Planning and Engineering
Dennis Tyndall, Police Chief
Ken Ebener, Municipal Judge

Rick Hodge, City Treasurer
Brian Carter, Director of Planning and Zoning
Charles Garren, Public Works Director
Justin Black, Staff Accountant
Matt Edwards, Police Major
Members of the Public and Press

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

Mayor Owens called the meeting to order at 6:17 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 June 1, 2012.

Agenda Item II – Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Owens gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item III – Requests for Appearance

Mayor Owens stated there were no requests for appearance.

Agenda Item IV – Announcements by Mayor

Mayor Owens announced that consideration of second reading on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 would take place at the Special Council Meeting on June 18, 2012. He stated the Zoning Board of Appeals will meet at 6 p.m. on June 19 and the Planning Commission will meet at 6 p.m. on June 25, 2012. Mayor Owens announced the city council will attend the Municipal Association of South Carolina (MASC) annual meeting at Hilton Head Island, SC from June 28 through July 1, 2012. He also noted that the Regular Council Meeting in July will be rescheduled for July 10 due to the July 4th Holiday.

Agenda Item V – Approval of Minutes

Mayor Owens entertained a motion to approval the minutes for the following meetings: the Regular Council Meeting held May 1, 2012, the Special Council Meeting held May 21, 2012, and the Budget Work Session held May 21, 2012. Mayor Pro-Tem Jones so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Agenda Item VI – Old Business

- A. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for second reading consideration of an ordinance to annex 1.53 acres of property located at 832 Chris Drive (TMS # 004599-10-042). Council Member Fowler so moved and Council Member Hallman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item VII – New Business

- A. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for first reading consideration an ordinance adopting a budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 and levying a tax to meet such budget for the fiscal year, with General Fund \$13,722,000 and Water/Sewer Fund \$12,552,000. Council Member Fowler so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for first reading consideration of an ordinance to annex .33 acres of property located at 2215 Thornton Avenue (TMS# 004627-01-004). Council Member Parler so moved and Council Member Harley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for first reading consideration of an ordinance to annex .30 acres of property located at 513 N. Lucas Street (TMS# 004665-03-012). Council Member Fowler so moved and Council Member Bray seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for consideration of an agreement with Davenport and Company to provide a debt capacity and affordability analysis at a cost not to exceed \$9,000. Council Member Fowler so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Owens noted that the city's bond attorneys, Pope Zeigler, LLC, had recommended that the analysis be done.
- E. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for consideration to reappoint the following individuals to the West Columbia Planning Commission for four-year terms expiring May 2016:
 - William J. "Buck" Buchanan
 - Nadine J. Lann
 - William G. "Gary" Prince
- F. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for consideration to reappoint the following individuals to the West Columbia Zoning Board of Appeals for three-year terms expiring May 2015:
 - Fred H. Carter
 - Preston Grisham
- G. Mayor Owens recognized Council Member Parler who led a discussion on designating Saturday, October 15, 2012 as Clean-up Day in West Columbia. Council Member Parler expressed how successful last year's two clean-up days were and how citizens were able to dispose of items that the Sanitation Department does not usually collect, such as old tires and cans of paint. Council Member Parler stated that the city collected over 200,000 pounds of trash during the two clean-up days last year. He commended the Streets and Sanitation Departments for the tremendous effort of removing the debris in a timely manner.

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Agenda Item VII – New Business (continued)

Council Member Parler said the city would promote the clean-up day with national organizations holding clean-up events at the same time. He asked council members to contact churches and neighborhood groups in their districts to ask for volunteers to help with the clean-up day.

- H. Mayor Owens recognized Council Member Bray who discussed a proposed ordinance to amend the West Columbia Code of Ordinances relating to animal control to include a free-roaming cat provision that allows cats to be trapped, neutered or spayed, then released near where originally caught. He explained that before he was elected to city council he was approached by some citizens regarding a more humane way to deal with feral or free-roaming cats. Council Member Bray said he attended a meeting in Lexington with proponents of a Trap, Neuter, Release (TNP) program that offers a way to reduce the feral cat population through natural attrition rather than using a capture and euthanasia approach.

Mayor Owens asked how the cost of the spay/neuter program would be addressed. Council Member Bray responded that Pets, Inc., a private animal adoption organization, has agreed to take any cats brought to its facility at no cost. The city's animal control officer would then pick up the cats up after they have been spayed or neutered and inoculated, and then release the cats in the approximate location where they were trapped or picked up.

Mayor Owens asked Police Chief Dennis Tyndall how many cats he thought the city might take to Pets, Inc. Chief Tyndall responded that the city's animal control officer picked up 161 cats last year and 50 so far this year. Mayor Owens noted that the city would need to hold a public hearing on the proposed ordinance to obtain input from citizens.

Agenda Item VIII – Adjourn

Mayor Owens entertained a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro-Tem Jones so moved and Council Member Bray seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta M. Valentino, CMC
City Clerk