

City of West Columbia, SC Attachment V.A

Regular Council Meeting

February 5, 2013 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:

Jenny Cunningham, City Administrator
Myron Corley, Deputy City Administrator
Mardi Valentino, City Clerk/PIO
Brian Carter, Director of Planning and Zoning
Stuart Jones, Building Official
Sid Varn, Director of Planning and Engineering
Donna Smith, Director of Economic Development
Charles Garren, Public Works Director

Rick Hodge, City Treasurer
Wyatt Coleman, Fire Chief
Rodney Howell, Fire Training Officer
Dennis Tyndall, Police Chief
Ken Ebener, Municipal Judge
Matt Edwards, Police Major
Shane Phillips, Police Captain
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* and radio and television stations were notified of the meeting by e-mail on January 31, 2013 and a revised agenda was e-mailed on February 1, 2013.

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

- A. Mayor Owens recognized Mr. Archie Maddox, Jr. who stated that he lives at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Mr. Maddox said he and his wife are eternally grateful for the quick and professional response by the West Columbia Police Department that saved three young men who were kayaking in the Congaree River near the West Columbia Riverwalk Park on January 18, 2013. Mr. Maddox explained that his son and two friends were kayaking in an area of the river that they considered placid and made the terrible mistake of removing their life vests. It was their first time on the river and they were unaware of the potential perils. While they were enjoying the river, the power station at the Dreher Shoals Dam released water that flooded down river and hit the kayakers like a tidal wave. They overturned into the frigid water without their life vests and were swept down river. Park Ranger Steve Metro spotted the three boys struggling in the rapid water, screaming for help, and radioed police dispatch of the emergency. One boy was clinging to an overturned kayak while the other two boys were grasping tree limbs to stay afloat. Ranger Metro called out to the boys, helping them to remain calm until help could arrive.

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Agenda Item III – Requests for Appearance (continued)

Mr. Maddox said within minutes shift supervisor Corporal Art Seboe arrived with Investigator Leah Smith and Police Officers 1st Class Trip Holland and Mark Howard. Corporal Seboe quickly assessed the situation and directed Officers Holland, Howard, Metro, and Smith to form a human chain to reach the two boys in the water while he ran along the Riverwalk to reach the boy holding onto the kayak. Corporal Seboe went into the icy water, reached the kayak just as the boy was about to go under the water from exhaustion, and pulled him to shore. Mr. Maddox stated his son later said he had reached the limit of his energy and if Corporal Seboe had not reached him he would have submerged in the water and never resurfaced. His son also said it took three people to pull him onto the river bank because he had absolutely no strength left.

Mr. Maddox said all three boys are alive today because of Corporal Seboe's leadership and the bravery of the officers who went into the cold waters for the rescue. Mr. Maddox thanked the officers for their professionalism, their commitment to public safety and their willingness to place their lives in danger to save other lives. Mr. Maddox said his son came back home that Friday night because of the five heroes at the West Columbia Police Department. He asked that the police officers be commended for their actions that saved three lives.

Mayor Owens recognized Mr. Michael Waslewski who stated he lives at 345 Carola Lane in Lexington, SC. He stated that he echoed the sentiments expressed by Mr. Maddox. He said he and his wife are very grateful for the quick response and heroic actions of the police officers who saved the three boys from drowning in the river. He also asked that the officers be commended.

Agenda Item IV – Announcements by Mayor

- A. Mayor Owens recognized Police Chief Dennis Tyndall who asked Corporal Art Seboe, Park Ranger Steve Metro, Investigator Leah Smith, and Police Officers 1st Class Trip Holland and Mark Howard to come forward. The officers were highly praised for their actions during the river rescue on January 18, 2013 that saved the lives of three young men whose kayaking trip on the Congaree River turned into a near disaster. Chief Tyndall said the five officers would also be recognized at the Police Officer of the Year Annual Banquet on February 22, 2013

Mayor Owens made the following announcements: The West Columbia Beautification Foundation will meet at 8:30 a.m. on February 7, 2013. The West Columbia City Hall will be closed for the President's Day Holiday on February 18, 2013. On February 19, 2013, a Special Council Meeting will be held at 5 p.m. and the Zoning Board of Appeals will meet at 6 p.m. The Planning Commission will meet on February 25, 2013 at 6 p.m.

Agenda Item V – Approval of Minutes

- A. Mayor Owens entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the following meetings: Special Council Meeting held January 7, 2013, the Regular Council Meeting held February 8, 2013 and the Special Council Meeting held February 22, 2013. Council Member Unthank so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Agenda Item VI – Old Business

- A. Mayor Owens recognized Mr. Lawrence Flynn, a bond attorney with Pope Zeigler, who stated the city has outstanding TIF bonds issued to fund the construction of the city hall in 2004 and other improvement in the city's master redevelopment plan. The bonds were issued initially in 2003 and refunded in 2008 because interest rates had fallen. The city's financial advisor, Davenport & Company, has identified the possibility of the city saving more money on interest with a projected \$15,000 savings over a five-year period for a total possible savings of \$75,000 to \$80,000 after paying issuance costs and attorney fees. Mr. Flynn explained the usual rule to follow for a bond refunding is a three-percent savings analysis, and though the projected savings on the TIF bond refund may not be quite that much, it would still be enough for council to consider approving the issuance of an ordinance to refund the current TIF bonds. Mr. Flynn stated that the 2012 audit has been finalized so the TIF bond would go out for bid on February 6, 2013 if passed by Council.

Mayor Owens entertained a motion for second reading consideration of an ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of a Tax Increment Revenue Refunding Bond, Series 2013. Council Member Fowler so moved and Council Member Unthank seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item VI – New Business

- A. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for first reading consideration of an ordinance amending and restating an ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of water and sewer system revenue bonds. Council Member Unthank so moved and Council Member Fowler seconded. Mayor Owens recognized Mr. Flynn who explained that the bondholders for the previously issued bonds had been contacted and they were agreeable to the amendments in the master bond ordinance. Mr. Flynn said the amendments include extending the fiscal audit period from 120 days to 180 days to allow the City treasurer more time to prepare the financial statements. Another amendment gives additional authorization to take advantage of new types of offerings in the bond market that the city may wish to pursue in the future. Mr. Flynn noted that some minor changes have been included to clarify the language in the master bond ordinance. Mayor Owens called for a vote and the motion passed unanimously.
- B. Mayor Owens entertained a motion for first reading consideration of a series ordinance providing for the issuance and delivery of a water and sewer system refunding revenue bond in an amount not to exceed three million dollars (\$3,000,000). Council Member Unthank so moved and Council Member Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Mayor Owens recognized City Treasurer Rick Hodge who presented a request for \$22,199.77 to purchase new Motorola radios and a repeater for the Sanitation Department. He explained that as of January 1, 2013, the frequency bandwidth the city operated under was changed from a wide band of 24 to a narrow band of 12.5 and that some of the radios currently used by the sanitation truck drivers could be converted to the new narrow bandwidth, but other radios were no longer able to transmit or receive. He said the repeater on the Greenhill Water Tank located on Burnham Street currently is 40-watt strength. A new repeater of 100-watt strength is needed for the narrower band width. Mr. Hodge stated the radio equipment would be purchased under state contact as a sole source from Motorola Solutions, Inc., which is a company that previously provided the city with radio equipment. Council Member Fowler so moved and Council Member Bray seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Agenda Item VII – Adjourn to Executive Session to Discuss a Contractual Matter

Mayor Owens entertained a motion to adjourn to executive session. Council Member Fowler so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned to executive session at 6:27 p.m.

Agenda Item VIII – Reconvene to Regular Session

Mayor Owens entertained a motion to adjourn executive session and reconvene to regular session. Council Member Fowler so moved and Council Member Hallman seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council reconvened at 7:40 p.m. Mayor Owens stated that council discussed matters of a contractual nature concerning the property the city owns at Meeting, State, and Court Streets, but no action was taken in executive session.

Agenda Item IX – Adjourn

Mayor Owens entertained a motion to adjourn. Council Member Parler so moved and Council Member Fowler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta M. Valentino, CMC
City Clerk