

City of West Columbia, SC

Attachment V.B

Special Council Meeting

August 19, 2013 at 6 p.m.

Members Present:

Joe Owens, Mayor
Boyd Jones, Mayor Pro-Tem
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
Justin Black, Staff Accountant
Stuart Jones, Building Official
Donna Smith, Director of Economic Development
Sid Varn, Director of Planning and Engineering
Rick Hodge, City Treasurer

Wyatt Coleman, Fire Chief
Mardi Valentino, City Clerk/PIO
Dennis Tyndall, Police Chief
Matt Edwards, Police Major
Charles Garren, Public Works Director
Jamie Hook, Sanitation Superintendent
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, The Columbia Star* and radio and television stations were notified of the meeting by e-mail on August 14, 2013.

Agenda Item II – Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Agenda Item III – Discussion of Converting City Payroll to Direct Deposit

Mayor Owens recognized Council Member Hallman who said she had met with City Treasurer Rick Hodge regarding offering employees the option of having their pay deposited electronically into their bank accounts instead of receiving paychecks. She asked Mr. Hodge to present council with information on direct deposit. Mr. Hodge said after meeting with bank representative T.K. Woods at BB&T Bank he found that there is no lead time necessary to deposit employees' pay electronically into their bank accounts. Employees can elect to have some or all of their pay deposited on Thursday and available to them on Friday on pay weeks. Mr. Hodge noted that all major banks and most local banks and credit unions are able to provide e-stubs for employees. He explained for those employees who do not have bank accounts, they can use debit cards or still receive paychecks. The Accounting Department will send notices to employees in October to sign up for direct deposit. Mayor Owens recognized Council Member Unthank who asked if any employee who does not sign up for direct deposit would experience any change. Mr. Hodge responded that employees who do not sign up would still receive their paychecks as usual and be able to cash their paychecks at BB&T, which is the city's banking institution. Mayor Owens recognized Council Member Hallman who stated that direct deposit would really help employees who work shifts and are unable to get off duty to cash their checks. Mayor Owens entertained a motion to implement the use of direct deposit. Council Member Hallman so moved and Council Member Unthank seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Mayor Owens announced the dedication of the Riverwalk Park and Amphitheater to former mayor Wyman M. "Mac" Rish would be August 24, 2013 at 4 p.m. with a reception to follow the ceremony. Mayor Owens announced the Regular Council Meeting in September will move from Tuesday, September 3rd to Monday, September 9th due to the Labor Day Holiday. The meeting time will still remain at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mayor Owens said council members had discussed allowing employees to take the Friday off after Christmas since those holidays fell on Wednesday and Thursday. He said council's consensus was to give employees an additional holiday on December 27, 2013.

Mayor Owens recognized Ms. Donna Smith, Director of Economic Development, who spoke about the upcoming Employee Wellness Fair on August 28, 2013 in the New Brookland Room. She said health-related vendors would be present, a health screening would be offered to employees and a number of door prizes would be given out to employees. She noted some of the vendors who would be present at the Health Fair include a massage therapist from the Balance Institute, a representative from Palmetto EAP (employee assistance program), a Bi-Lo representative with information on the Fuel Perks program and Palmetto Outdoors river rafting and tubing. She said a number of local business have supplied very nice door prizes.

Mayor Owens recognized Council Member Hallman who announced the first box of the Little Free Libraries program has been erected at the Riverwalk Park near the restrooms. She explained the program allows a person to borrow a book from the structure then return it at anytime or replace it with another book. She said eventually other Little Free Libraries structures would be erected throughout the city. She thanked Sanitation Superintendent Jamie Hook and his staff for building and setting up the structure in the park.

Agenda Item IV – Adjourn to Executive Session to Discuss a Contractual Matter Concerning City Property and a Personnel Matter Concerning an Employee Grievance

Mayor Owens entertained a motion to adjourn to executive session. Council Member Unthank so moved and Council Member Harley seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned to executive session at 6:21 p.m.

Agenda Item V – 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 Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council reconvened to regular session at 6:50 p.m. Mayor Owens stated that no action was taken in executive session. Mayor Owens recognized Council Member Parler who made a motion to uphold the Grievance's Committee recommendation for Grievance 13-01. Council Member Unthank seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item V – Adjourn

Mayor Owens entertained a motion to adjourn. Council Member Parler 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