

City of West Columbia, SC

Attachment III.C

Special Council Meeting

April 14, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Joe Owens, Mayor
Casey Jordan Hallman, Mayor Pro-Tem
Eric L. Fowler
L. Dale Harley
Boyd Jones
Temus C. "Tem" Miles, Jr.
Tommy G. 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

Dennis Tyndall, Police Chief
Brian Carter, Assistant City Administrator
Members of the Public and Press

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

Mayor Owens called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. *The State, Free Times, Lexington County Chronicle, Cayce-West Columbia News, The Columbia Star, COLADaily.com* and radio and television stations were notified of the meeting by e-mail on April 11, 2014.

Agenda Item II – Determination of Quorum

Mayor Owens determined that a quorum of council member was present to conduct business.

Mayor Owens read a statement as follows, "A lot of accusations have been directed toward me, including vague allegations regarding the 'abuse of power.' The only 'abuse of power;' however, is what is occurring in this specially-called council meeting. Five members of council are going to essentially change the vote of the electorate. It should be noted that, in addition to stripping the office of mayor of the power of presiding over these council meetings, they have also elected to remove my power to nominate members of standing committees and to appoint special committees to make investigations. This is an important mayoral power intended to enable the mayor to collect information and investigate possible wrongdoing. What motive could be served by removing this power from the hands of the mayor and placing this power in this newly created position of 'council chairperson?' They may have won this battle, but "We the People" will win the war. They can take this gavel, but they will not silence my voice. I am proud and honored to serve this city and will continue this fight in a court of law so we can put an end to this political power play and get back to business, which is serving the citizens of this fine city. Most importantly, I want to thank the citizens of West Columbia for their prayers and support."

Agenda Item III – Election of a Chairperson

Council Member Miles nominated Council Member Unthank for chairperson and Council Member Harley seconded the nomination. Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman nominated Mayor Owens for chairperson and Council Member Wingard seconded the nomination. Council Members Miles, Parler, Unthank, Jones and Harley voted for Council Member Unthank. Mayor Owens, Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman and Council Members Fowler and Wingard voted for Mayor Owens. The nomination to elect Council Member Unthank as chairperson was carried by five votes to four votes. Council Member Unthank will serve initially as chairperson until the first council meeting in December 2014 when council will elect a chairperson for a one-year term.

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2014

Page Two

Agenda Item IV – Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Agenda Item V – Adjourn to Executive Session to for a Personnel Matter to Discuss a Grievance

Chairperson Unthank asked for a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss a recommendation from the Employee Grievance Committee for Grievance 14-01. Council Member Parler so moved and Council Member Miles seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned to executive session at 4:36 p.m.

Agenda Item IV – Reconvene to Regular Session

Chairperson Unthank asked for a motion to adjourn executive session and reconvene to regular session. Council Member Harley so moved and Council Member Jones seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council reconvened to regular session at 5:08 p.m.

Chairperson Unthank recognized Council Member Miles who made a motion to accept the recommendation from the Employee Grievance Committee for Grievance 14-01 with the exception of the sixth un-numbered paragraph, which he directed to be removed from the recommendation. Council Member Harley seconded the motion. Council Members Harley, Jones, Fowler, Unthank, Miles and Parler voted in favor of the motion. Mayor Owens, Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman and Council Member Wingard voted in opposition. The motion passed six votes to three votes.

Agenda Item VI – Adjourn

Chairperson Unthank asked for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Harley so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marta M. Valentino, CMC
City Clerk/Public Information Officer