

City of West Columbia, SC

Attachment VIII.A

Regular Council Meeting

September 2, 2014 at 6 p.m.

Members Present:

Joe Owens, Mayor
Casey Jordan Hallman, Mayor Pro-Tem
Eric L. Fowler
L. Dale Harley
Boyd J. Jones
Temus C. Miles, Jr.
Tommy Parler
Teddy Wingard
B.J. Unthank

Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Jenny Cunningham, City Administrator
Myron Corley, Deputy City Administrator
Mardi Valentino, City Clerk/PIO
Rick Hodge, Financial Consultant
Jamie Hook, Sanitation/Streets/Parks Superintendent
Sid Varn, Director of Planning & Engineering
Members of the Public and Press

Wyatt Coleman, Fire Chief
Ken Ebener, Municipal Judge
Brian Carter, Assistant City Administrator
Justin Black, City Treasurer
Stuart Jones, Building Official
Shane Phillips, Police Captain

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

Chairperson Unthank 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 29, 2014.

Agenda Item II – Determination of Quorum

Chairperson Unthank noted a quorum was present to conduct business.

Agenda Item III – Invocation

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

Agenda Item IV – Pledge of Allegiance

All attendees at the meeting recited the Pledge of Allegiance before the flag of the United States of America.

Agenda Item V – Announcements/Communications by Mayor

Chairperson Unthank recognized Mayor Owens who stated that he had no announcements.

Agenda Item VI – Citizens' Requests for Appearance

Chairperson Unthank recognized Ms. Kimberly Nix with the Cayce-West Columbia Branch of the Lexington County Library System. Ms. Nix explained the library advocates family reading and lifelong learning and as part of its program offerings. She said middle school and high school students are encouraged to participate in projects to promote literacy. She said the library has embarked upon a project to build and place a Little Free Library at Reeves Park.

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Agenda Item VI – Citizens’ Requests for Appearance (continued)

- A. Ms. Nix stated that students and library staff would maintain the structure and replenish the book stock from donations to the library. She requested permission to place a Little Free Library at Reeves Park between the bench and the gazebo. Council concurred with her request.
- B. Chairperson Unthank recognized Ms. Amy Wicker and Ms. Patty Ginpher with Stone River Event Center. Ms. Wicker said a client would like to have a bluegrass band perform on September 19, 2014 from 9 p.m. until 12 p.m. outside of the building under the covered pavilion. She requested permission from council to suspend the noise ordinance prohibition against loud noise after 9 p.m. to allow the band to perform. Chairperson Unthank asked Assistant City Administrator Brian Carter to explain how the noise ordinance would prohibit the band from playing after 9 p.m. Mr. Carter responded that the noise ordinance requirements are stricter between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m., but the city could waive the requirements to allow the band to perform so that law enforcement would not be called to enforce the noise ordinance. Mayor Owens made a motion to allow the band to perform after 9 p.m. and Council Member Jones seconded.

Chairperson Unthank recognized Council Member Miles who said the Mill Village and Congaree Park Subdivision are near Stone River. He has received many phone calls from residents about bands performing outside and he would hesitate to move forward until he knew how the band would set up and the effect on nearby residents. Ms. Wicker responded the band is performing for a dress rehearsal dinner and she could ask the band to keep the decibel level down. Mr. Carter noted the current noise ordinance does not have a threshold decibel level requirement because the ordinance is based upon complaints and observations of responding police officers. He said the proprietor of Stone River understood when he rented the property that the facility is approved for inside events and city council would have to approve any outside special events. Council Member Harley suggested restricting the band to performing from 9 p.m. until 11 p.m. Council Member Miles said he wants Stone River to be successful, but the people who live in the Mill Village and Congaree Park call and complain about the noise from bands. He said the city needs to set a policy on outside performances in that area because noise complaints will continue to come up. Ms. Wicker said Stone River would compromise for the band to perform until 11 p.m. Mayor Owens moved to amend the original motion in order to allow the band to perform until 11 p.m. and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Chairperson Unthank called for a vote on the original motion as amended. Mayor Owens, Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman and Council Members Fowler Harley, Jones, Parler, Unthank and Wingard voted in favor of the motion. Council Member Miles voted in opposition. The motion passed eight votes to one vote.

- C. Chairperson Unthank recognized Mr. Frank Knapp and Mr. Mike Dawson, executive director of The River Alliance. Mr. Knapp stated that in 2004 he and Mr. Dawson collaborated to recognize the historical importance of Union General William T. Sherman’s visit to the Columbia area. Since 2005 commemorations have included a reenactment of the firing upon the state capital from the exact spot that Sherman’s troops used in 1865. He said Sherman’s cannons were set up at the intersection of Meeting Street and Alexander Road where Union troops fired across the Congaree River at the state house. A reenactment is planned for February 16, 2015. Mr. Knapp requested permission to use the city’s parking area along Alexander Road and to close the amphitheater area due to cannon noise and for the protection of the public. He also asked the West Columbia Police Department to close off Alexander Road from Meeting Street to the entrance of the Riverwalk Park. Mr. Knapp said at least 200 to 300 people are expected to view the reenactment. Council concurred with his request.

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Agenda Item VII – Approval of Minutes for Previous Meetings

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to approve minutes for the regular council meeting held July 1, 2014, the special council meeting held July 17, 2014 and the special council meeting held July 30, 2014. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Harley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item VIII – Unfinished Business

- A. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion for consideration of a bid approval for the Mineral Springs Road/ Leaphart Road Water Line Replacement Project. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Jones seconded. Chairperson Unthank recognized City Engineer Sid Varn who stated the city received eight bids on August 21, 2014. He said the low bid in the amount of \$87,651.97 was submitted by Chris-Kat Grading and Utilities, Inc. Mr. Varn said when he checked on the company he found it has a good work record in the Midlands area. He recommended council approve the low bid. Chairperson Unthank called for a vote which passed unanimously.

Council Member Dale Harley received permission to leave the room at 6:30 p.m. and did not vote for Agenda Items VII A or IX, but went into executive session when he returned to the room.

Agenda Item IX – Adjourn to Executive Session for a Contractual Matter Concerning a Contract for Engineering Services

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to adjourn to executive session. Council Member Parler so moved and Mayor Owens seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned to executive session at 6:36 p.m.

Agenda Item X – Reconvene to Regular Session

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to adjourn executive session and reconvene to regular session. Council Member Miles so moved and Mayor Owens seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council reconvened to regular session at 7:47 p.m. Chairperson Unthank stated that no action was taken in executive session.

Agenda Item XI – Adjournment

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to adjourn. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Miles seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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