

City of West Columbia, SC

Regular Council Meeting

February 3, 2015

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:

Myron Corley, Deputy City Administrator
Brian Carter, Assistant Administrator
Kelli Brazell, City Clerk
Donna Smith, Director of Economic Development
Justin Black, Treasurer
Shane Phillips, Police Captain
Ken Ebener, Municipal Judge
David Chaney, Asst. Supervisor, Water Plant II
Dennis Tyndall, Police Chief
Members of the Public and Press

Anna Huffman, IT Systems Administrator
Wyatt Coleman, Fire Chief
Mardi Valentino, Director of Human Resources
Stuart Jones, Building Official
Sid Varn, Director of Planning and Engineering
Rick Hodge, Financial Consultant
Rodney Howell, Fire Training Officer
Floyd Wright, Asst. Supervisor, Water Plant I
Scott Morrison, PIO/West Columbia PD

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

Chairperson Unthank called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. and noted a quorum was present. *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 January 30, 2015.

Agenda Item II – Determination of Quorum

Chairperson Unthank noted a quorum was present to conduct business.

Agenda Item III – Invocation

Council Member Jones gave the invocation.

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 the Mayor

There were no announcements by the Mayor.

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Agenda Item VI – Presentations and Recognitions

- A. Chairperson Unthank recognized Mayor Joe Owens who presented Carol Ostendorff, an employee of Water Plant 2, an award for winning the 2014 Laboratory Analyst of the Year from the Water Environment Association of South Carolina. Mayor Owens thanked Ms. Ostendorff for her hard work and congratulated her on the achievement.
- B. Mayor Joe Owens presented Bubba Long, an employee of Water Plant 2, an award for winning the 2014 Maintenance Man of the Year from the Water Environment Association of South Carolina. Mayor Owens thanked Mr. Long for his hard work and congratulated him on the achievement.
- C. Mayor Owens recognized city employees for their years of service to the city. Five-year service pins were awarded to Steve Metro, Art Seboe, Tommy Todd, Matt Deas, and Stacy Turner (Police), Michael Jordan (Fire), Lynwood Wilson (Sanitation), Odell Smith (Maintenance) Brian Zimmerman (Water Plant 2), Andy Upp (Water Distribution) and Eric Sharpe (Water Billing). 10-year service pins were awarded to BJ Unthank (Council) Robert McIntyre (Police), Scott Bell (Water Plant 1), Darrel McKinney and Rick Stanley (Water Plant 2). 15-year service pins were awarded to Lalu Chauhan (Water Plant 1), Bubba Long and Mark Samples (Water Plant 2). 20-year pins were awarded to Colleen Belk (Police), Nate Harper (Fire), Willie McCoy (Sanitation), Chuck Jacobs (Water Plant 2) and Legrande Baker (Water/Sewer). 25-year service pins were awarded to Joe Owens (Mayor) and Wilhelmenia Frazier (Court Administration). A 30-year pin and certificate were awarded to Dennis Tyndall (Police Chief) and Garner Wilkins (Fire). A 35-year pin and certificate were awarded to John Holladay (Water Billing). Mayor Owens praised the employees on their outstanding service and commitment to the citizens of West Columbia.

Agenda Item VII – Requests for Appearances/Citizen Comment Period

- A. Chairperson Unthank recognized Bill and Vicki Shanahan, president and owners of Blowfish Baseball, along with their General Manager Kelly Evans. As representatives of Blowfish Baseball, they wanted to invite Council, staff, and the public to opening night of the new baseball field in Lexington. Opening night will be May 29, 2015 and the ticket prices are \$6 for adults and \$5 for children. The new stadium is located at 474 Ball Park Road at Wildcat Hollow in Lexington. The team consists of collegiate baseball players from universities all over the United States. Mayor Owens welcomed the baseball team to Lexington County.
- B. Chairperson Unthank recognized Mayor Pro-Tem Casey Hallman of 149 Lakeview Drive. Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman gave an update on the Little Free Libraries in West Columbia. The Libraries are a self-sustaining book exchange. The first Little Free Library was installed at the Riverwalk last year. It was constructed by Jamie Hook, Sanitation/Streets/Parks Superintendent, and his father, I.D. Hook. The second Little Free Library opened January 31, 2015 in Reeves Park next to the West Columbia Community Center. Teens and staff from the Cayce-West Columbia Branch Library constructed the Little Library with donations and assistance from Capital City Woodworks and Sherwin Williams Paints. Nathan Ulner, an Eagle Scout, will construct and donate two Little Free Libraries for an Eagle Scout project. One will be donated to the city and one to a local business. A Brookland-Cayce High School student will build and donate one to a local business as well. There is no cost to the city to construct or stock the Little Free Libraries, only man hours to install them.

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Agenda Item VII – Requests for Appearances/Citizen Comment Period – Continued

- C. Chairperson Unthank recognized West Columbia Fire Chief Wyatt Coleman. Chief Coleman updated Council on grants that the West Columbia Fire Department received. The first grant was from SC Municipal Insurance Trust for \$2,000. This grant is awarded yearly and is used to help defray the cost of equipment. The second grant was from SC Homeland Security for \$1,941. That money will be used to purchase two 800 MHz radios. The third grant was actually granted to Firehouse Subs. The Jeffrey Lee Williams Foundation granted almost \$30,000 to Firehouse Subs. The grant will provide 1000 CO₂ (carbon dioxide) detectors and 20 single gas CO₂ monitors to use for the surrounding communities. The city of West Columbia will receive 200 of the CO₂ detectors and two of the single gas CO₂ monitors. The CO₂ detectors will be used in the Lakeview area homes. The single gas monitors will be used for fireman to wear into a house to make sure there are no deadly CO₂ gases being emitted.
- D. Chairperson Unthank recognized Bill McEntire of 716 Meeting Street, Outdoor Wood Furniture. Mr. McEntire requested the city of West Columbia develop a façade improvement grant. The town of Lexington offers a program to build a partnership with its business owners. Basically, the property owner has work done [up to \$5000] on his façade. The receipts are submitted to the town, and if granted, the owner will be reimbursed. The town of Lexington is upping the amount to \$10,000 in 2015 and expanding the scope of the projects. Mr. McEntire would like for the city to consider establishing a façade improvement grant as an incentive to business owners in the West Columbia area. Chairperson Unthank thanked Mr. McEntire and stated Council would take it under serious consideration because it would be beneficial to the business owners, as well as the city.
- E. Chairperson Unthank recognized Teddy Calcina of 2317 Raven Trail. Mr. Calcina would like to establish the Palmetto Tennis Classic tournament at Brookland – Cayce High School. It will serve as a fundraiser for the Brookland – Cayce High School boys and girls tennis teams. The closest tennis tournament is in Florence. He believes the tournament would be a great help to the city and schools by bringing other teams into the West Columbia area. He has eight teams committed so far. The tournament is scheduled for February 27 – March 1. Mr. Calcina is requesting \$500-\$1000 to help provide dinners for the families competing. Chairperson Unthank thanked Mr. Calcina and stated that Council will consult with city staff and let him know at a later date.

Agenda Item VIII – Approval of Minutes for Previous Meetings

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Council meeting held January 6, 2015 and the Special Council meeting held January 15, 2015. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Miles seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item IX – Unfinished Business

- A. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion for second reading consideration of an ordinance to sell city property located at 136 Sunset Boulevard. Council Member Miles so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Agenda Item X – New Business

- A. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion for first reading consideration of an ordinance to relinquish a sewer easement for property located at 136 Sunset Boulevard. Council Member Miles so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion for consideration to the fourth amendment to the Contract of Sale extension for property located at 136 Sunset Boulevard. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Miles seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion for consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding for 15 foot water and sewer easements to the city for property located at 136 Sunset Boulevard. Council Member Miles so moved and Mayor Owens seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. Chairperson Unthank stated Council would postpone the vote on consideration of first amendment to extend Memorandum of Understanding between the City of West Columbia and Estates Properties, LLC., until after executive session.
- E. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion for consideration to approve the 2015 Jury List for the West Columbia Municipal Court. Council Member Fowler so moved and Mayor Owens seconded. Chairperson Unthank recognized Municipal Judge Kenneth Ebener who said the 10,496 names for the jury pool were derived from the voter registration list obtained from the State Election Commission and the South Carolina driver's licenses. He explained the list is reviewed to purge the names of people who do not live in the city and citizens that are not required to serve. Council Member Fowler so moved and Mayor Owens seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to determine the method of repair on a wall on city right-of-way at 311 Hudson Street. Building Official Stuart Jones, informed Council of the bids and repair method options. The lowest bid was from JAG Contractors, LLC for solid 8 inch block filled with concrete and reinforced steel for \$6,300. JAG Contractors, LLC also provided a proposal to rebuild the wall with 8 inch cement block filled with concrete and reinforced steel, brick veneer added to the house side of block wall, and the top of the block wall capped with brick. Mr. Jones stated that based on the situation the wall needed to be repaired with block. Council Member Harley made a motion to use the \$6,850 option with the brick cap. Council Member Miles seconded. Mayor Owens stated he did not agree with fixing the wall. Chairperson Unthank called for a vote. Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman, Chairperson Unthank and Council Members Harley, Jones, Fowler, Parler, Wingard and Miles voted in favor of the \$6850 option with the brick cap. Mayor Owens voted in opposition. The motion passed eight votes to one vote.

Agenda Item XI – Adjourn to Executive Session to Discuss a Contractual Matter Concerning City Owned Property

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to adjourn to executive session. Council Member Fowler so moved and Council Member Miles seconded. Council adjourned to executive session at 6:34 p.m.

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Agenda Item XII – Reconvene to Regular Session

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to adjourn executive session and reconvene to regular session. Mayor Owens so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council reconvened to regular session at 7:43 p.m. Chairperson Unthank stated that no action was taken in executive session.

Agenda Item X – New Business – Continued

- D. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to consider the first amendment to extend the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of West Columbia and Estates Properties, LLC. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Miles seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item XIII – Adjournment

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to adjourn. Council Member Miles so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Brazell
City Clerk