

City of West Columbia, SC

Regular Council Meeting
June 2, 2015 - following the Budget Public Hearing at 6 p.m.

Members Present:

Joe Owens, Mayor
Casey Jordan Hallman, Mayor Pro-Tem
Boyd Jones
Eric L. Fowler
L. Dale Harley
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
Brian Carter, Assistant City Administrator
Wayne Shuler, Director of Planning and Zoning
Jamie Hook, Sanitation/Street/Parks Superintendent
Donna Smith, Director of Economic Development
Anna Huffman, IT Systems Administrator
Sid Varn, Director of Planning and Engineering
Mardi Valentino, Director of Human Resources
Members of the Public and Press

Dennis Tyndall, Police Chief
Wyatt Coleman, Fire Chief
Rick Hodge, Financial Consultant
Stuart Jones, Building Official
Ken Ebener, Municipal Judge
Justin Black, City Treasurer
Kelli Ricard, City Clerk
Scott Morrison, PIO/West Columbia PD
Larry Hall, Equipment Services Manager

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

Chairperson Unthank called the meeting to order at 6:08 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 May 29, 2015.

Agenda Item II – Determination of Quorum

Chairperson Unthank noted a quorum was present to conduct business.

Agenda Item III – Invocation

Council Member Tem Miles 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

Chairperson Unthank recognized Mayor Owens who stated he had received a call from Mayor Steve Benjamin of Columbia requesting the city of West Columbia participate in closing the Gervais Street Bridge for the "Dining on the Bridge" event on October 18, 2015. Mayor Owens also requested the city provide a plaque for Mayor Earl Williams, who will celebrate his 100th birthday on September 12, 2015. Former Mayor Williams held the office of Mayor in West Columbia for about 20 years.

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Agenda Item VI – Requests for Appearances/Citizen Comment Period

- A. Chairperson Unthank recognized Reverend Kenneth Taylor of Turner AME Church located at 1122 Monticello Street and Reverend Scooter Scott of Christ Central Ministries. In 2007, Turner AME Church, Christ Central Ministries - Nehemiah Project, and Next Step Ministries created Next Step Ministries in an effort to transform entire neighborhoods in need. It is comprised of young adults in teams of 80-125 to work on homes improvements. This summer they will work on the Happytown/Sugartown Community near Turner AME Church. Reverend Taylor asked for prayers and the support of Council to spread the word. Reverend Scooter Scott stated this is the second year of a ten-year commitment. Mayor Owens proposed a resolution from Council in support of the cause. He also asked Reverend Taylor to invite the 25-30 homeowners receiving help from Next Step Ministries to the Special Council Meeting on June 15, 2015. Chairperson Unthank thanked both reverends for their help with the community.
- B. Chairperson Unthank recognized Mr. Jamie Hook, Public Works Superintendent. Mr. Hook stated the city of West Columbia Sanitation Department will begin educating the citizens on the change of route days from Friday to Wednesday. Moving the pick-up day will increase savings, and the efficiency of the Sanitation Department. In order for the change to start on Wednesday, June 24, 2015, flyers will be placed on the trashcans on June 5th, 12th, and 19th. Sanitation will continue to run recycle and the household trucks on Fridays for a couple of weeks. Chairperson Unthank thanked Mr. Hook and told him of the many compliments he has received in regards to the Sanitation Department.

Agenda Item VII – Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held May 5, 2015, the Budget Work Session held May 18, 2015, and the Special Council Meetings held May 18 and 21, 2015. Council Member Parler so moved and Council Member Miles seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item VIII – Unfinished Business

- A. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion for second reading consideration of an ordinance amending Title 6, Section 3, entitled, “Animal Control,” of the West Columbia Code of Ordinances to allow the keeping of domestic chickens under certain conditions. Chairperson Unthank stated the pilot program would be for one year. Council Member Miles so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman seconded. Mayor Owens, Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman, Chairperson Unthank and Council Members Jones, Fowler, Wingard and Miles voted in favor. Council Members Harley and Parler voted in opposition. The motion passed seven votes to two votes.
- B. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion for consideration of the Planning Commission’s recommendation to establish the zoning classification of 3500 Henbet Drive, West Columbia, SC (TMS# 003698-01-004) as R4 (low density residential). Mayor Owens so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Agenda Item IX – New Business

- A. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion for first reading consideration of an ordinance enacting and adopting a supplement to the code of ordinances for the city of West Columbia. Council Member Miles so moved and Mayor Owens seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion for first reading consideration of an ordinance adopting a budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and levying a tax to meet such a budget for the fiscal year, with a General Fund Budget of \$12,710,000 and Water/Sewer Fund Budget of \$12,570,000. Council Member Miles so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. Council Member Harley moved to amend the budget to add the cost of the feasibility study for the proposed community center. Council Member Jones seconded. Chairperson Unthank asked for discussion. Mayor Owens and Chairperson Unthank agreed the budget is balanced at this time. Council Member Miles requested if the amendment passed, that the budget be sent back to staff to rework and present the budget balanced once again to Council. Chairperson Unthank called for the vote to amend the budget. Council Members Harley, Parler, Jones and Miles voted in favor of amending the motion on the budget. Mayor Owens, Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman, Chairperson Unthank, Council Members Wingard and Fowler voted in opposition. The motion to amend the budget failed four votes to five votes. Chairperson Unthank then called for the vote to approve the budget as presented. Mayor Owens, Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman, Chairperson Unthank, Council Members Jones, Fowler, Parler, Wingard and Miles voted in favor of approving the budget as presented. Council Member Harley voted in opposition. The motion passed eight votes to one vote.
- C. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to consider an ordinance authorizing the issuance of a water and sewer system improvement revenue bond anticipation note in the principal amount of not exceeding nine million dollars (\$9,000,000) by the city of West Columbia, South Carolina in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of the sale of water and sewer system improvement revenue bonds of the city of West Columbia, South Carolina and other matters relating thereto. Council Member Miles so moved and Mayor Owens seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to consider a first reading consideration of an ordinance to annex 12.70 acres of property (TMS # 004599-09-007) on Harvest Glen Lane. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Miles seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- E. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to consider first reading consideration of an ordinance to annex .70 acres of property (TMS # 004597-02-002) on Sunset Boulevard at Chris Drive (PKA 2505, 2507 & 2509 Sunset Boulevard.) Council Member Miles so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- F. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to consider approval of the “Before I Die...” wall, a temporary public art project at the Riverwalk Amphitheater. Chairperson Unthank recognized Mr. Karl Lawson, an author and artist from Columbia. Mr. Lawson informed Council the “Before I Die...” wall project is a fun interactive art display for citizens. There are 250 around the world and they are in 15 or 16 languages. The display would remain at the Riverwalk for a month in the area closest to the Amphitheater. Mr. Lawson will paint and install the wall himself, and he only needs the city staff to help monitor and clean it. It will be the longest, wall built so far, 128 feet double-sided. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Miles seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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- G. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to consider approval of the Summer Saturday events held from Noon to 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays during June and July in the 100 to 300 blocks of State Street. Chairperson Unthank recognized Mr. Mark Plessinger with Frame of Mind. Mr. Plessinger informed Council of the first Summer Saturday event to be held on Saturday, June 6, 2015. The time was set from Noon to 4:00 p.m. to help draw a bigger brunch crowd. The events would have live music and the vendors would stay open to help draw people to shop between the two restaurants in that area. The first event would also showcase 20-25 of the Ferrari Club's cars. Mr. Plessinger requested that half of the 100 block of State be blocked off for the car show. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. Council Member Miles requested Police Chief, Dennis Tyndall, address the safety issues involved. Chief Tyndall recommended closing the entire 100 block of State Street for the event due to the car show and pedestrian traffic. Chairperson Unthank called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously. Chief Tyndall informed Council one of the vendors wanted to provide small glasses of wine outside of the restaurant. Council Member Miles asked if the vendor's intention was to give the wine away or sell it, and Chief Tyndall confirmed it was to be given away. Council Member Miles informed Council the State of South Carolina has strict laws regarding alcohol being given away, and the city would not be required to place additional restrictions. Council Member Miles moved to reconsider the approval of the Summer Saturday events. Council Member Miles so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman seconded. The motion to reconsider passed unanimously. Council Member Miles then moved to allow tasting and gifts of wine during the Summer Saturday events on State Street per South Carolina State regulations. Chairperson Unthank called for the vote to approve the amended motion. Council Member Miles so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. Mayor Owens, Chairperson Unthank, Council Members Harley, Jones, Fowler, Parler, Wingard and Miles voted in favor. Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman voted in opposition. The approval of the motion as amended passed eight votes to one vote.
- H. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to consider the approval the West Columbia/Cayce Fire Automatic Aid Agreement. Chairperson Unthank recognized Fire Chief, Wyatt Coleman. Chief Coleman requested Council approve the Auto Aid agreement with the city of Cayce. Cayce will cover most of the south side of Highway One to help West Columbia. The boundaries for West Columbia to cover for the city of Cayce have yet to be determined. Cayce City Council has already approved the agreement. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. Council Member Miles requested to see the specific details for the EMS calls before voting. Chief Coleman stated the agreement is only for structure or commercial structure fires. Mayor Owens asked if the agreement would help the Insurance Service Office (ISO) Rating. Chief Coleman informed Council the agreement would drop the ISO rating down from three to two. Chairperson Unthank called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item X – Adjourn to Executive Session for Legal Advice Regarding Amendment to the Voting Requirements Ordinance and Contractual Legal Matter

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss legal advice regarding an amendment to the voting requirements ordinance and a contractual legal matter. Mayor Owens stated he saw no reason in going to Executive Session to require legal advice regarding an amendment to the voting requirements, and the contractual legal matter was not on the agenda. Council Member Miles moved to amend the agenda to include reference to receiving legal advice on a contractual matter. Council Member Miles stated there would not be an additional action item added to the agenda for this amendment. Council Member Miles so moved and Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman seconded. Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman, Chairperson Unthank, Council Members Harley, Jones, Fowler, Parler, Wingard and Miles voted in favor of amending the agenda. Mayor Owens voted in opposition. The motion passed eight votes to one vote. Chairperson Unthank asked for the vote to adjourn to executive session. Council Member Miles so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman, Chairperson Unthank, Council Members Harley, Jones, Fowler, Parler, Wingard and Miles voted in favor of adjourning to executive session. Mayor Owens voted in opposition. The motion passed eight votes to one vote. Council adjourned to executive session at 7:06 p.m.

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Agenda Item XI – Reconvene to Regular Session

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to adjourn executive session and reconvene to regular session. Council Member Miles so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council reconvened to regular session at 7:30 p.m. Chairperson Unthank stated no action was taken in executive session.

Agenda Item IX – New Business – continued

- I. Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion for first reading consideration of an ordinance amending Title 1, Section 3 entitled “Voting Requirements”. Council Member Miles so moved and Mayor Owens seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro-Tem Hallman gave an update on the two Little Free Libraries constructed by Mr. Nathan Ulmer, Eagle Scout. Both of the libraries have been constructed, installed and dedicated. The first one was placed in Fowler Park and the second one is located in Café Strudel.

Agenda Item XII – Adjournment

Chairperson Unthank entertained a motion to adjourn. Mayor Owens so moved and Council Member Parler seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelli Ricard
City Clerk