

CITY OF HARDEEVILLE
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS
MINUTES
JUNE 30, 2008
6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Bronco Bostick, Mayor Pro-Tem Roy Powell, Council Members A. Brooks Willis and Michael Foskey, Police Chief Richard Nagy, Assistant Chief Dan Morgan, Assistant Chief Steve Murphy, Recreation Director Joe Gailey, Planning Director Brana Snowden, Licensing and Permitting Director Jaime Vega, Finance Director Michelle Werner, Building Official Bob Klein, City Clerk Lori Pomarico and Public Information Director Jason Rogers.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bronco Bostick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Brooks Willis gave the invocation

III. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/COMMENTS (2 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)

There were no public presentations.

At this time, Mayor Bronco Bostick announced that due to tonight's special meeting, the regular meeting for this Thursday, July 3, 2008 has been cancelled, and due to the Municipal Association of South Carolina's Annual Meeting July 16, 2008 through July 20, 2008, the regular City Council meeting scheduled for July 17, 2008 will be held on Thursday, July 24, 2008.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AND CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN FOR TMP 043-00-00-001 **ANDERSON TRACT (+/-9.56 AC) (2008-6-12D)**
PUBLIC COMMENT

City Manager Kevin Griffin stated that this is the second reading of the Anderson Tract amendment of the Conceptual Master Plan and Planned Development District. There have been no changes since the first reading of this document. Planning Director Brana Snowden stated that they are adding the nine plus acres to the overall tract which is now well over 3,000 acres in size.

There was no public comment. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Powell to accept Ordinance No. 2008-6-12D at second reading. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Foskey and carried unanimously.

**B. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR TMP 043-00-00-001 ANDERSON TRACT (2008-6-12E)
PUBLIC COMMENT**

City Manager Griffin stated that this is the Development Agreement portion of the Anderson Tract that needed to be amended to add the 9.56 acres. There have been no changes to the Development Agreement since first reading.

There was no public comment. A motion was made by Council Member Foskey to accept Ordinance No. 2008-6-12E at second reading. The motion received a proper second by Mayor Pro Tem Powell and carried unanimously.

**C. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE V OF CHAPTER 8 OF THE HARDEEVILLE CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 8-88, *EXCEPTIONS TO APPLICATION OF ARTICLE*, SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR THE PRIVATE USE OF CERTAIN FIREWORKS (2008-6-19C)
PUBLIC COMMENT**

City Manager Griffin stated that this is the second reading of the ordinance to allow exceptions on holidays to discharge fireworks for private use within City limits. There have been a few changes; Thanksgiving and Christmas have been removed; if a red flag burning alert has been issued it is at the discretion of the Hardeeville Fire Chief to suspend the allowed shooting of those fireworks on those particular holidays for public safety purposes.

The Mayor opened for public comment. Ms. Rhonda Cradle questioned how will the general public know if it is a red flag situation, and if the police are called to a location would the public just be warned or would they receive a ticket. City Manager Griffin responded that the City would notify the public, via normal means such as Council meeting, the TV station, or radio for the red flag alert. It would be at the Police Chief or Fire Chief's discretion to let those people know and give them the chance to stop discharging the fireworks rather than ticket them.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Powell to accept Ordinance No. 2008-6-19C at second reading. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Willis and carried unanimously.

D. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO RAISE REVENUES AND ESTABLISH A BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009: TO SET REVENUES REQUIREMENTS: TO PROVIDE FOR EXPENDITURES: CITY OF HARDEEVILLE (2008-5-1A)

PUBLIC HEARING

City Manager Griffin stated that this is the second reading of the Budget Ordinance for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Powell to substitute the Ordinance considered at the first reading on May 1, 2008 to raise revenues and establish a budget for the City of Hardeeville, South Carolina for fiscal year 2008-2009, to set revenue requirements and provide for expenditures be amended. Mr. Powell stated the reasons to amend and substitute are because the City Council in recent workshops has made a significant number of line item changes in both revenue and expenditures and it would be confusing and somewhat difficult to amend each of the line items individually. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Foskey and carried unanimously.

Mr. Griffin continued that considerable work has been done in the last few weeks on the budget. Council directed staff to try to cut 15% from the previous budget that was submitted at first reading. The budget has been reduced from \$7.6M to \$6.4M. There have been reductions in staff, outside services, salary and benefit plans. Mr. Griffin stated it is a conservative budget. Mr. Griffin added that there is a contingency built into this budget for anything that may come up during this fiscal year; a contingency has not been available in the past. Mr. Griffin deferred to Finance Director Michelle Werner.

Ms. Werner gave a summary of the proposed budget of \$6.4M which results in a 7% decrease from the previous fiscal year budget of \$6.9M. The annual budget includes the General Fund and four special Revenue Funds for local hospitality and accommodation taxes and state accommodation taxes. The City of Hardeeville expects property tax revenue to increase 28% from last fiscal year, however, the rate of property taxation will remain the same at .153 mills resulting in property tax revenues of \$1.5M. Development Agreement fees are not expected to increase over the next fiscal year; business license fees are expected to decrease from \$920,000 to \$750,000; and the City anticipates collecting \$350,000 in police fines after the State of South Carolina and the Victims Advocate portions have been submitted to the appropriate agencies. Due to the acquisition of the Cherry Point fire station, the City will now collect \$445,000 from Jasper County in periodic installments over the entire fiscal year.

Ms. Werner stated that there have been organizational changes including merging Public Works with the Recreation Department. Due to the nature of work activities and the need for similar machinery and equipment in both departments the City has decided it would be more efficient to have one director and one expenditure budget for these two departments; Public Safety will now be disbanded into separate police and fire departments each having its own chief to oversee the operations of those two departments; the engineering function will be outsourced negating the need for an engineering department; the creation of a Permitting Department to process both building permits and business licenses.

Ms. Werner stated that there are additions to staff in Fiscal Year 2008-2009 including three new firefighters to help service the Cherry Point fire station and provide increased shift coverage for the existing City limits; two new police patrol positions in order to add officers to existing shift rotations to better protect the citizens and businesses, as well as tourists, in the Hardeeville area. The City is able to fund these new positions from police fines and the increased funding from the Intergovernmental Agreement with Jasper County. A summer intern program is also being initiated to allow local high school students to find out more about how their government operates and career opportunities that exist in local government.

Ms. Werner stated that the City of Hardeeville's budget is decreasing by 7% in the 2008-2009 fiscal year compared to the 18.6% increase that occurred in the prior year budget. A large portion of the decrease in expenditures was achieved by eliminating the second Assistant City Manager position, the vacant Planner I position and by outsourcing the engineering function. The overall payroll decreased 3.8% from \$2.7M in last year's budget to \$2.6M in this proposed budget. Additional cost savings were achieved by passing on some of the costs of dependent health insurance coverage to the employees. Other changes include a lease-purchase payment for the building the City is acquiring to house the growth management departments in addition to the increased costs of utilities for these buildings. A contingency line item has been included in the City Council budget in the amount of \$378,000 that can be used at the Council's discretion for any necessary items or reserved for the City's contingency account. The Economic Development budget has been increased due to travel associated with that department. The budget also includes funds for additional fire equipment for the new firefighter positions and some new grounds maintenance equipment for the Public Works/Recreation Department.

There was no public comment. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Powell to accept Ordinance No. 2008-5-1A at second reading. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Foskey and carried unanimously.

V. PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE
JUNE 19, 2008 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A motion was made by Council Member Foskey to approve the June 19, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes. The motion received a proper second by Mayor Pro Tem Powell and carried unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. A RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDERS REGARDING THE
HARDEEVILLE RECREATION CENTER PHASE II.
PUBLIC HEARING

City Manager Kevin Griffin deferred to Assistant City Manager Jeff Slocum. Mr. Slocum stated that he had provided the Council with a summary of the change orders regarding the Recreation

Complex Phase II. These change orders are to add the Senior Center under the current contract with Shelco; to provide for the funding for the Senior Center and to also add the paving of Butch Williams Field and the paving for the site work outside the Senior Center, both of which are being funded by the Jasper County Transportation Committee. There was also a small change order to include approximately \$1,800 of changes to the overall scope and the final change order was for the reduction of about \$421,000 out of the project that does not impact the actual completion of the work being done right now.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked when will Shelco get started once this is approved. Mr. Slocum responded that he has been told that once the change order is approved they are ready to start on the Senior Center. Mr. Slocum also received confirmation that the buildings at the recreation center should be done by the end of July, and some of the site work may take until the middle to end of August.

There was no public comment. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Powell to approve Resolution Item VI A at first reading. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Foskey and carried unanimously.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Griffin stated that the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce held its annual meeting on Friday evening; all members of Council were in attendance. Economic Development Director Ted Felder received the Jasper County Chamber's Growth and Development Award for his achievements and economic development over the past year. Tradition and Core Communities of South Carolina received the Sergeant Jasper Community Service Award.

Mr. Griffin stated that the City is still taking applications for the summer intern program; Department Head reports will resume on July 24th. Mr. Griffin recognized Recreation Director Joe Gailey for the Fireworks and Fun Event that took place Saturday evening. Over 400 people attended, there was a fireworks show, hamburgers and hot dogs and waterslides for the kids. Mr. Griffin deferred to Mr. Gailey who deferred to Ms. Alexis Roeber, Special Events Coordinator. Ms. Roeber thanked the Tetra Companies for sponsoring the entire event. Ms. Roeber thanked the City Staff for volunteering and stated that \$500 was raised to be donated to the Hardeeville Library. Mr. Griffin added that this donation is help to get the sign improved in front of the Library.

Mayor Bostick thanked Mr. Griffin and his staff, the council and the attorney for their hard work on the budget. Mayor Pro Tem Powell thanked Kevin Griffin, Jeff Slocum, Michelle Werner and all department heads for all their help walking him through the budget. Council Member Foskey thanked the staff for all the work done for the public at the Fireworks and Fun event. Council Member Willis stated that he appreciated everything that was done at the event, and thanked Tetra for their participation with the community.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Powell and seconded by Council Member Foskey to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Lori Pomarico, City Clerk

Date

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