

CITY OF HARDEEVILLE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS
MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2009
3:00 PM

Present: Mayor Bronco Bostick, Mayor Pro Tem Roy Powell, Council Members A. Brooks Willis, Michael Foskey and Bill Horton, City Manager Kevin Griffin, Assistant City Manager Jeff Slocum, Planning Director Brana Snowden, Police Chief Richard Nagy, Fire Chief Dan Morgan, Economic Development Director Ted Felder, Finance Director Dennis Averkin, Licensing and Permitting Director Jaime Nicholson, Judge John Carroll, Media Technician Juan Singleton and Media Technician Rob Lewis.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Bronco Bostick called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Brooks Willis gave the invocation

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

- A. Dr. Vera Bailey of the Pregnancy Center and Clinic of the Low Country Hilton Head, addressed the Council. Dr. Bailey stated that there is free medical service for any woman who accesses their doors from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day, offering free pregnancy tests, tests for sexually transmitted diseases, prescriptions for the women and their partners, free prenatal services through the sixteenth week, and then the women are transitioned to affordable health sites. The Clinic, through a grant from the Duke Foundation, has now been able to purchase a mobile clinic that will be running in Hardeeville. Dr. Bailey provided the Council will information on the Clinic. There will be an Open House Dedication of the Free Clinic on Wednesday, March 25th at 9:00 a.m. at the Hardeeville Thrift Store. Dr. Bailey invited all to attend and asked that if there are any suggestions as to where the location would access the best number of people to let her know, they are still open to where they should be situated. Mayor Bronco Bostick asked if the Clinic will move around Hardeeville. Dr. Bailey responded that the Clinic will be at Super WalMart on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm; Tuesdays in Levy; Wednesdays at the Hardeeville Thrift Store; and Thursdays in Ridgeland.
- B. Mrs. Kathleen Wilson addressed the Council on starting a Hardeeville Historical Society. Mrs. Wilson stated that she is a product of the Hardeeville Community and that Hardeeville has educated a lot of children who have become significant

citizens. Mrs. Wilson is a retired teacher and graduated from Hardeeville High School. The Historical Society will help promote Hardeeville's future by educating the community of Hardeeville's significant history. It will be of no cost to the City, but the society would need a place to meet, advertise on the community channel and have a member of the City staff as a contact. The Committee would meet and make recommendations to the Council on how they could promote the town and recognize some Hardeeville heroes that have made significant contributions to its development. Mrs. Wilson asked for the Council's support, not financially, but the commitment to promote this and see its significance. As a volunteer group, they would willingly work on the museum at City Hall and work with the staff and possibly make more exhibits. Mayor Bostick stated that this is a well needed program and that he would refer Mrs. Wilson to the City Manager to set up a time to meet. Council Member Mike Foskey asked that Mrs. Wilson provide her name and phone number so that if anyone is interested in working with her they could contact her. Mrs. Wilson stated that her name is Kathleen Wilson, her phone number is 843-783-0032, and her email address is walterw@hargray.com.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION FOR THE PARCEL LOCATED ALONG U.S. HIGHWAY 17 TMP 030-00-01-019 (+/-1.62 ACRES) **SLF III – HARDEEVILLE, LLC (2009-3-5A)**
PUBLIC HEARING

City Manager Kevin Griffin stated that this is the second reading of an ordinance for annexation of a parcel located below the shooting range, south of Pintail Golf Course. This is a small parcel that would give the Hardeeville Tract frontage on Hwy 17. There have been no changes since first reading.

There was no public comment. A motion was made by Council Member Willis to accept Ordinance No. 2009-3-5A at second reading. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Horton and carried unanimously.

B. SECOND READING OF A ZONING AMENDMENT FOR TMS 039-00-01-019 LOCATED ALONG U.S. HIGHWAY 17 TO BE REZONED FROM COMMUNITY COMMERCIAL IN UNINCORPORATED JASPER COUNTY TO LIMITED INDUSTRIAL (LI) IN THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE (+/- 1.62 ACRES) **SLF III – HARDEEVILLE, LLC (2009-3-5B)**
PUBLIC HEARING

City Manager Griffin stated that this is the zoning assignment of the previous discussed annexation. There have been no changes since first reading.

There was no public comment. A motion was made by Council Member Horton to accept Ordinance No. 2009-3-5B at second reading. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Foskey and carried unanimously.

V. PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 5, 2009
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A motion was made by Council Member Foskey to approve the March 5, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Horton and carried unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING INTO THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE APPROXIMATELY +/-5.31 ACRES OF REAL ESTATE LOCATED IN JASPER COUNTY TMS 080-00-02-003 NOT ALREADY WITHIN THE HARDEEVILLE CITY LIMITS, AS WELL AS ALL ADJACENT PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY, RAILROAD RIGHTS OF WAY, WATERS, LOWLANDS AND WETLANDS. **FOUR BOYS VII (2009-3-19A) PUBLIC HEARING**

City Manager Griffin stated that this parcel is located adjacent to a multi-family parcel that was annexed into the City roughly ten or twelve months ago. It is located off the corner of Shortcut Rd and Argent Blvd, southwest of the connection from Hwy 170 and Argent Blvd. The property will be added as part of the annexation that was done for the multi-family parcel.

Mayor Pro Tem Roy Powell asked for clarification of the actual location of the property as displayed on the site map. City Manager Griffin responded that the property is just southwest of the Dollar General.

There was no public comment. A motion was made by Council Member Horton to accept Ordinance No. 2009-3-19A at first reading. The motion received a proper second by Mayor Pro Tem Powell and carried unanimously.

- B. FIRST READING OF A ZONING AMENDMENT FOR TMS 080-00-02-003 LOCATED NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF ARGENT BLVD AND SHORTCUT RD TO BE REZONED FROM RURAL PRESERVATION (RP) IN UNINCORPORATED JASPER COUNTY TO MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL (MFR) IN THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE (+/- 5.31 ACRES) **FOUR BOYS VII (2009-3-19B) PUBLIC HEARING**

City Manager Griffin deferred to Planning Director Brana Snowden. Ms. Snowden stated that this will be added to the Fisherman Cove apartment complex that was brought to Council about one year ago. This is a continuation of that project and the applicant is asking for the same zoning. Planning Commission recommends approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked if the property owners are the same as the owners of the property that has already been annexed. Ms. Snowden responded that they are the same and own the commercial piece on the corner, the multi family piece and this which will be one project. Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked if they recently purchased this property. Ms. Snowden responded that the property was not available when they came through last year and it recently became available.

There was no public comment. A motion was made by Council Member Willis to accept Ordinance No. 2009-3-19B at first reading. The motion received a proper second by Mayor Pro Tem Powell and carried unanimously.

C. RECEIPT OF THE ATAX COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO APPROPRIATE STATE ACCOMMODATIONS TAX RECEIPTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 6-4-10 OF THE SC CODE OF LAWS.

PUBLIC HEARING

City Manager Griffin deferred to Assistant City Manager Jeff Slocum who has been handling the ATax Committee. Assistant Manager Slocum reported that the ATax Committee met on March 10th for presentations and to discuss two requests for funds out of the State Accommodations Tax Fund. The Jasper County Chamber of Commerce has requested \$8,900 for placing a Hardeeville advertisement in Carolina Living magazine. The ATax Committee reviewed this, discussed it with the applicant and recommended awarding the funds to the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce. The Greater Hardeeville Chamber of Commerce has requested \$37,459. The presentation and discussion included funds to pay for billboard rentals, and design flyers and guides that will be used to promote tourism in Hardeeville. The ATax Committee recommended awarding the funds to the Greater Hardeeville Chamber of Commerce.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked City Manager Griffin when all of the Chambers came before Council, what was the total available money for each organization we had to disperse. City Manager Griffin responded that there is a percentage of the Accommodations Tax that has to be allocated, by state law, to a Designated Marketing Organization (DMO). This is additional monies that are in that account that are available for tourism and economic development type purposes related to tourism. Assistant City Manager Slocum reported that the balance in the indirect account available right now is \$57,416. We anticipate another quarterly check to come in within the next month, which would add approximately \$12,000

to the account. During the year, in the indirect fund there will be approximately \$60,000 to \$65,000 that can be used for promoting tourism and advertising. Mr. Sal Arzillo, President of the Greater Hardeeville Chamber of Commerce stated that the Accommodations Tax money is derived from motels and restaurants in our town. It is sent to Columbia and Columbia, in turn, sends that money back to Hardeeville to be spent on tourism accommodations. In total, Hardeeville has approximately \$100,000 a year, \$25,000 to general fund, 30% goes to the Chamber, and the rest goes to tourism. Mr. Arzillo stated that the best way for this money to be spent right now is on the billboards and they hope that the Council will give them the rest of the funds to help them take care of these billboards.

Mr. Arzillo, stated that the Chamber has requested more of the ATax money for the billboards, pamphlets, and odds and ends that they use to promote tourism in Hardeeville. Mr. Arzillo introduced Mr. Glen McCaskey. Mr. McCaskey stated that their purpose today is to give the Council an update on where the Chamber is and a picture of where they are headed. The ATax money they have been given has been well applied. A number of good things have happened since the Chamber has gotten started in their 51st year. The number of members has doubled, and they hope to double it again before the end of this year. Mr. McCaskey stated that their business overview going forward is incredibly simple. Basically, they are going to establish Hardeeville as the center for the campaign, establish a 30 mile radius all around Hardeeville, and embrace these neighborhoods and adjacent communities as part of their tourism development program for the coming year. The attitude and the concept is stay in Hardeeville and visit the other places. The Hardeeville Chamber wants to encourage the promotion, development, and organization of the resources of the Hardeevillian as well as the preservation of the natural, historical and cultural resources that have been part of Hardeeville's history.

Mr. McCaskey stated that one of the things the Hardeeville Chamber is doing is reestablishing their presence in Hardeeville and they are trying to make a few basic statements to the community that they are here and the citizens can expect significant things from them. They have created the Hardeeville Calendar and are creating the Hardeeville map that is specific to Hardeeville. The map will also have promotional material and points of interest. The Chamber has been able, through negotiations, to get five billboards. Four of the five are up, two northbound and two southbound on I-95. The fifth one is located outside of the Welcome Center where the Chamber will be putting up a different type of billboard that will be a follow up to information that they have at the Welcome Center. The Chamber is reconstituting a Hospitality Committee made up of those in the accommodations business, restaurants and fuel, and they will be putting up a billboard of their own. The Chamber will also be doing several things including a small brochure that promotes the concept of "stay here visit there"; an adventure guide to all these areas under the Hardeeville heading; a hospitality personnel training program in early May; photo files of Hardeeville environs; and a coupon program designed to incent the visitor that stops in our facilities overnight to stay here again on their way back. Mr. McCaskey also stated that Carolina Living is a terrific publication for us to advertise in and get our feet wet. This publication is in both North Carolina and South Carolina and is focused 100% on retirees.

Council Member Foskey asked Mr. Arzillo other than coming to Council and member fees, how does the Chamber plan on generating other income. Mr. Arzillo responded that if the Chamber is doing tourism for the City and they are the DMO, as the DMO it is their job to do the marketing, it is not their job to pay for the marketing. That marketing money comes from Columbia and Hardeeville. Council Member Foskey asked if they have any events planned to help generate money. Mr. Arzillo responded that an event is in the starting stages of being planned at Maureen Plantation, but he has missed the last two meetings. Council Member Foskey stated that the Chamber had allocated \$2,500 of the requested funds to repair the downtown sign, and asked if they will be making that a priority. Mr. Arzillo responded that the sign needs to be taken care of and Mr. McCaskey has already done some of the work for that sign. Mr. McCaskey added that they are also pursuing funds from the County, and in conjunction with the map project and the community guide, there will be some advertising involved and they hope to generate some revenue from that.

Council Member Brooks Willis commented that the billboards do not have a frame around them and in the hot sun they may tend to wrinkle. Mr. Arzillo responded that the signs are vinyl and are resistant. Mr. McCaskey stated that they are attached from behind and are tightened and controlled. If a wrinkle appears, the vendor is to respond on that within 48 hrs.

Council Member Willis asked Mr. McCaskey if he is salaried and explained the reason he is asking is because he had a conversation with Mr. Arzillo when he made his first presentation and said there would be no salaried people involved in the Chamber. Council Member Willis had asked then how he would be able to promote the Chamber without and Mr. Arzillo said that they would be able to do it. Mr. Arzillo responded that Mr. McCaskey is not salaried.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked what the City has paid the Greater Hardeeville Chamber so far this year. Assistant City Manager Slocum responded that the total is \$11,465. Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked when the DMO brought all their paperwork, what was their proposed budget for the year. Mr. Arzillo responded it started out with \$30,000, but with the estimated tax it would probably go down to \$23,000. Now with the way the economy has been, it has come down to \$18,000, so they are about half from what they originally thought was going to be in the ATax fund. Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked Mr. Arzillo that if he knew this other money was available, why didn't they put it in the budget then instead of asking for the \$20,000. Mr. Arzillo responded that they weren't asked to come up with a budget they would like to spend, but were asked to produce a budget of what they had for the Chamber, that number came from the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked how many signs the Chamber has right now on the Interstate. Mr. Arzillo responded that there are four. Mr. McCaskey stated that the fifth one is being modified by the company. Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked to have the budget that was given to Council displayed and commented that when the Chamber brought the budget to Council, it had four signs that were going to be paid for with the monies they were given. Mayor Pro Tem Powell commented that the budget shows additional money to pay for these signs, and

asked what would happen if the City did not have this money or was not able to give the Chamber this money. Mr. Arzillo responded that they know the ATax fund is more than the 30% and the money in the fund is spent on only a few things. He does not know where it goes if it isn't spent. The Chamber, as the DMO, is asking the City Council to take the Hardeeville money and spend it on the signs. They did expand on it because they knew they could because there was more money in the ATax fund. Mr. McCaskey added that their initial thinking was two signs and when they got into it, they found that they could negotiate and get more signs for the money. Mr. Arzillo stated that the larger number of signs has to be, and that they need exposure.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell commented that they are asking for \$37,459. Mr. Arzillo clarified that the budget they submitted is not actually what they are asking, all the items shown are what the Chamber is actually doing, and it is not specifically made to show what they are doing with the money. If you total everything, it is approximately \$70,000 plus. They use Chamber money to do the things they need to do. The Chamber is asking for money to take care of the shortfall on the signs. Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked Assistant City Manager Slocum for the total money the Chamber is requesting including the original money given to them. Assistant City Manager Slocum responded it would be close to \$55,000 if the DMO money comes in where we are projecting right now.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked Mr. Arzillo to explain the notation on the budget regarding the request for \$37,000 in addition to the \$38,000 projected for the billboards. Mr. Arzillo responded that they are anticipating \$18,000 from the ATax fund. There is a shortfall of \$37,000 for the rest of the signs and some other things like pamphlets and the webpage that they need to get some of the available ATax money. The cost of the billboards is more than just rentals; there are graphics and people that put these signs up that cost a lot of money and have already been paid for. Mr. Arzillo stated that they are already into Chamber money to do this and they shouldn't have to do that. It is very important to the Chamber that businesses in this town get their fair share of the bang.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked Mr. McCaskey how much of the \$55,000 that the Chamber will receive from the City will go to the item My Fees at \$2,000 per month. Mr. McCaskey responded that none of his fees are coming from the ATax funds; it is all from additional income from other sources.

Council Member Willis asked if the bookkeeping can prove that none of Mr. McCaskey's fees come from the ATax fund. Mr. McCaskey responded that if Mr. Willis was to look at his books, he would see precious little income from the Hardeeville Chamber of Commerce, under \$2,000 for the six or seven months they have been at this. Council Member Willis commented that Mr. McCaskey is getting something out of this. Mr. Arzillo stated that the state law allows Mr. McCaskey to get something out of this.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell said that he read in all of the paperwork, that when the Chamber is asking Council for money they have to present a detailed list of what that money is being

requested for, and then asked where that list is and if what they have received is this list. Mr. Arzillo responded by asking what kind of list he wants and stated that they need the money for the billboards. Those billboards are up there, they are not up there for nothing, people had to be paid, and there is sign rental of approximately \$40,000. Mayor Pro Tem Powell commented that before they come to Council, by state law or ordinance, they are supposed to present the Council with a written estimate of what this money is going to. City Manager Griffin stated that in the beginning of the year they are supposed to put a proposed budget together for the year and at the end of the year put together a final budget and come back and report on what that money was spent on. If additional monies are appropriated, there is a 90 day window to report back to Council and the ATax Committee as to how those funds were spent.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked if they are supposed to give a detailed budget before requesting money. Assistant City Manager Slocum responded yes. Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked where this detailed budget was and Mr. Arzillo responded that it was what he had in front of him.

Mayor Bostick commented that he thought that Mr. Arzillo did a good job in preparing this, but what upset the Council and himself is the fourth item, My Fee of \$24,000 at \$2,000 per month, and asked who is "my". Mr. Arzillo responded that the Chamber hires Community Visions, which cost \$24,000 per year, to help with all the marketing, historic events, etc. that comes out of Chamber funds. They are allowed to give Community Visions "X" number of dollars to go ahead and invest in this marketing. Mr. Arzillo explained that this document shows all their expenditures, things they have spent, things they are going to spend, things that are happening in Hardeeville and with the Chamber. This is not specifically about \$24,000 going to one person or anything like that. Mayor Bostick commented that Mr. Arzillo probably needs to correct the My Fee statement. Mr. Arzillo stated that when people that work for nothing for the Hardeeville Chamber submit their expenditures, he was supposed to glean what expenditures were actually to be for ATax. Inadvertently, before he could glean this thing, this is what came about.

Council Member Bill Horton stated that he is a numbers guy, and commented that the Chamber is requesting \$37,000 at this point. The Chamber is also going to receive approximately \$18,000 depending on what the DMO funds work out to be. The Chamber has shown that they are going to have five billboards at an approximate cost of \$7,600 per billboard which comes out to around \$38,000 which leaves \$20,000 to do something else with. That is what the numbers that the Chamber is providing the Council with are showing. If that is not the case, and here is where the confusion comes in, the Council has to be held accountable, not only to the State to make sure these funds are spent in a proper fashion, but also to the merchants that put these funds in there as well as to you. And for Council, in his opinion, to release funds, they have to have an itemized list of exactly what is what so that at the end of this term when these funds are spent and it comes time for us to audit what the Chamber has done, we have something to refer back to, and you aren't giving us that. You say that this is your budget, but then where there are confusing numbers you say that is not

part of your budget. We have got to have an itemized accounting for these funds, for him personally, to be able to vote for. Council Member Horton stated that he doesn't know where else to go with this and he thinks that everybody on Council has asked some good questions and that the Council is in support of the Chamber of Commerce but has to be accountable.

Mr. Arzillo responded that they will redo the numbers for Council so that they could understand better and asked when they would like to have that done.

Mayor Bostick deferred to City Manager Griffin. Mr. Griffin stated it would have to be brought up at the next Council meeting if Council chooses to defer it.

Council Member Horton suggested that if it is the pleasure of the Council, he would like to motion at this point that this item be tabled and be brought back up when they have the appropriate information.

Council Member Willis asked Mr. Arzillo if he is full time chairman of the DMO and commented that he mentioned he had missed two or three meetings. Mr. Arzillo responded that Mr. Willis misses meetings too, and asked if he was a full time Councilman.

Council Member Willis asked Mr. McCaskey if he is from Hilton Head and if he lives on Hilton Head. Mr. McCaskey responded that he lives in Moss Creek on the mainland. Council Member Willis asked Mr. McCaskey if he would agree with him that Hilton Head is the engine that drives the Hilton Head, Bluffton, Hardeeville area and what affects either one affects all, and if not, he is in a minority. Mr. McCaskey agreed. Council Member Willis further asked if he would agree that Hardeeville is not an island unto its own. Mr. McCaskey agreed. Council Member Willis stated that his point is that he doesn't think we should separate or try to make Hardeeville an island unto its own and not connect it with everything else because everything that goes on from here to the ocean affects everybody. Whether we like it or not, we are going to be a part of it.

Mayor Bostick asked for a motion to table this item.

Council Member Horton restated his motion to table this item until they receive further information from the DMO. The motion received a proper second from Council Member Willis and carried unanimously.

City Manager Griffin reminded Mayor Bostick there were was an additional item on the ATax Committee request from Jasper County.

Council Member Horton asked for a point of order and stated that this was listed as one item on the agenda and his motion was to table the entire item.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Kevin Griffin stated that the Lowcountry Native American PowWow Festival was a success. There was great attendance both days. Mr. Griffin thanked Officer Mike Benton of the Hardeeville Police Department, who was responsible for putting the event together, as well as the Public Works employees who did a great job getting it ready. It appears that this event is something we can build on and grow for next year to increase tourism in Hardeeville and interest in the community.

City Manager Griffin reported that there is a Regional Business After Hours at Tradition tonight at 5:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

City Manager Griffin reported that on April 8th there will be a State of the County Education Breakfast. The district superintendent and representatives from all of the K-12 schools in Jasper County will be at the event to discuss the education issues that we are approaching.

City Manager Griffin reported that there is a tentative date of Friday, April 24th for the Grand Opening of the Senior Citizens Center behind City Hall.

City Manager Griffin deferred to Planning Director Snowden to talk about the meeting she will be having on the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Snowden reported that next Thursday, March 26th at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room, there will be a public meeting/open house on the next three elements of the Comprehensive Plan -- transportation, natural resources and public facilities which is a portion of the entire community facilities element. The public and Council are welcome to attend.

City Manager Griffin reported that on Tuesday, March 24th, Chuck Mitchell, representing RiverPort, will be making a presentation at the Greater Hardeeville Chamber of Commerce meeting at 12:00 p.m. at Cripple Crab. This will be the first public presentation on what is happening with RiverPort on Hwy 17. RiverPort is the large industrial project we are working on also related to Exit 3. All are invited and encouraged to attend the luncheon.

Mayor Bostick asked City Manager Griffin to give an update on the meeting with Georgia Ports Authority. City Manager Griffin responded that he, along with Economic Development Director Ted Felder and Mayor Bostick, met with the Georgia Ports Authority, and also met with the Savannah Mayor. Both meetings went well. The City is coordinating very strongly with what is happening in the current Garden City Terminal. They have great capacity and we are hoping to work with them to bring a lot of that business over to South Carolina, which is something we have not been able to do yet, but we are moving very hard to do. City Manager Griffin stated that they were able to take a good look at the Port and the very innovative things they are doing now to increase their capacity and become more competitive with the other ports, not only in the region, but across the world. In their meeting with the Mayor of Savannah, they learned that Savannah wants to do more, as well as we do, to coordinate across the river with a more regional influence with what is happening in Savannah, Chatham County, and those areas and what we can do to help each other. Things we've talked about such as accommodations back and forth promoting our area as well as

theirs and things we both can do to both gain in revenue, commerce and economic development.

Mayor Bostick asked City Manager Griffin to try to expedite the ATax issue and meet with the DMO. As soon as the DMO can get the information to the unanswered questions to the Council, he would like to put it on the next agenda if possible.

Council Member Foskey commented that he received good news from Police Chief Nagy about the Explorers Program and that eleven people have signed up. Chief Nagy reported that they had the initial kick-off meeting for the new Explorer Program. All that attended were given an orientation of the police department, established some plans for what we will do with uniforms, and the scope of work. It was a very energetic and motivated group and parents were very grateful. They will meet twice a month and they are working around all of their schedules, school activities and work. They have to get the basic training curriculum coordinated with them. Chief Nagy stated that the program is off and running; they are designing a uniform for them, and they are really looking forward to it. More details will be made available as they progress.

Fire Chief Dan Morgan reported that he has the information together to get the Junior Firefighter Program started. The Fire Department has just gotten two people back from the academy and with other new hires from the SAFER Act Grant, they are getting everyone settled in before they tackle this project. The program should be underway by the summer. Mayor Bostick asked if there will also be an On the Job program as well. Chief Morgan responded that as much as they can get the state to cooperate. He believes the state is allowing 16 and 17 year olds, as long as they are in an explorer program, to obtain the certifications now so that when they do turn 18 they can go to work.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. DISCUSSION OF EMPLOYMENT, APPOINTMENT, COMPENSATION, PROMOTION, DEMOTION, DISCIPLINE, OR RELEASE OF AN EMPLOYEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH S.C. CODE OF LAW 30-4-70(A)(1).

A motion was made by Council Member Foskey to recess for five minutes then move into executive session. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Horton and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Council Member Foskey to return to regular session from executive session. The motion received a proper second by Mayor Pro Tem Powell and carried unanimously.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Horton and seconded by Council Member Willis to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Lori Pomarico, City Clerk

Date

SEAL