

CITY OF HARDEEVILLE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS
MINUTES
MARCH 4, 2010
6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Bronco Bostick, Mayor Pro Tem Roy Powell, Council Members A. Brooks Willis, Michael Foskey and Bill Horton, Interim City Manager Ted Felder, Assistant City Manager Jeff Slocum, City Attorney David Tedder, City Clerk Lori Pomarico, Planning Director Brana Snowden, Parks & Recreation/Public Works Director Joe Gailey, Police Chief Richard Nagy, Municipal Court Judge John Carroll, Fire Chief Dan Morgan, Police Captain Arnold Middleton, Finance Director Dennis Averkin, Media Technician Juan Singleton and Media Technician Brandon Sligh.

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)

At this time Mayor Bostick read the rules for public comment.

Ms. Kathleen Wilson of the Hardeeville Historical Society recognized Ms. Linda Nease for her help with the research done on the street names in Hardeeville and presented her with a certificate from the Historical Society. Ms. Wilson also distributed to the Mayor and Council a copy of these findings. Ms. Nease commented that Council Member Horton had asked her to work on this project. She spoke with people in the community that she thought could help and hopes that what she found is correct.

Mr. Sal Arzillo thanked Ted Felder for all his help in getting the Hardeeville Centennial kicked off and added that Mr. Felder is a new kind of guy and is one of the better City Managers the City has had.

Mr. Arzillo asked about the Forensic Audit that was conducted, and stated that he understands it has been completed and has moved along to an investigation with SLED. Mr. Arzillo asked if the Mayor could shed some light on this audit. Mayor Bostick responded that the only thing he could say is that it is alive and that SLED does have it. Mayor Bostick added that SLED indicated that it would take one and one half to two years to complete, and it is his understanding that it will probably be available to the public early Spring.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell commented that SLED received the Forensic Audit on November 8, 2008 and he would be happy to give Mr. Arzillo the phone number and the man's name that is doing the investigation.

A. MS. D'JARIS A. MOORE, SMALL BUSINESS HUB, TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

Ms. D'Jaris Moore thanked the Mayor and Council for inviting her to give a presentation on the Technical College of the Lowcountry's Small Business HUB. They were awarded a grant from the USDA Rural Development Organization in June 2008 in the amount of \$89,995 to focus on the development and support of small businesses in the Lowcountry; geography defined as four counties, Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton and Colleton. Since that time, the Small Business HUB has done a tremendous amount to support about 250 small businesses, many of them in Hardeeville and Jasper County. Ms. Moore stated that a facility has been provided in Ridgeland, where small businesses, including those from Hardeeville, can go and use the facility, which is equipped with a wireless network and computers, at no charge; they can effectively conduct business from the facility because so often small businesses do not have home offices, they operate as one person with limited resources. Additionally, they have been able to provide business assistance and referrals. A Coalition has been developed of approximately 35 for profit and non-profit businesses and organizations to assist the small businesses. The HUB is pleased that the City of Hardeeville is involved and the Hardeeville Economic Development Organization is one of the Coalition partners.

Ms. Moore spoke of the Fast Track Program. Approximately two months ago, the Agape Family Life Center in Hardeeville sponsored, along with the Small Business HUB, a Fast Track Program to educate small businesses and to help them develop business plans. That class graduated 19 people with business plans in place and some of them are in operation today. The HUB also conducted a survey in the Fall 2009; at this time Ms. Moore introduced Mr. Paul Jacobson, Board Vice Chairman and President of Mission Resources Group, a firm in the Lowcountry that helps small businesses, to talk about the results.

Mr. Jacobson reported that the grant runs out July 1, 2010 and late last Summer, the Coalition starting planning for what they would do at that time. The first question was "Do they continue the HUB?" The four county survey results were overwhelmingly positive in support of the HUB; the HUB is on the right track; there was no particular consensus as to how the HUB should be organized; there was no strong consensus of funding other than to try to maximize the amount of funding from grants; the HUB is cooperative not competitive and is meant to pull together existing resources throughout the four county area to support the small businesses and only when required resources are not available does the HUB create its own programs; and the HUB needs to do a better job of letting people know who they are and what they can do.

Mr. Jacobson reported that they reviewed the performance of the first year and one half looking for critical success factors and found four: independence, flexibility, responsiveness and the

ability to include and combine services of all relevant providers in all four counties. The recommendation made to the Coalition was to create a stand-alone self-regulating entity. The HUB has created two entities/corporations – 501(c)6 The Lowcountry Small Business HUB and 501(c)3 The Lowcountry Small Business Growth Center.

Mr. Jacobson reported that all of the four counties are represented on the Board; Board members are drawn from the Coalition; all Board meetings are open; Ms. D'Jaris Moore is the President Chief Executive Officer of the HUB and Mr. William Furman is the USDA representative who advises the HUB. The HUB is focusing on providing services to their four major constituencies; most visibly is the Fast Track Program as well as the advisory-assistance program and mentoring and coaching.

Mr. Jacobson reported that over the next year the HUB is planning two major additions, a Virtual Business Incubator that leverages technology and supports business across all four counties; the HUB is currently into implementation planning and expects to have a pilot program up hopefully before the end of this year; and secondly, a Micro Financing Program; they are at the point where they are ready to launch a feasibility study on how that would be done; this is basically for businesses that don't normally qualify for conventional kind of financing.

Mr. Jacobson reported that the Virtual Business Incubator is going to require a significant technology platform; once it is in place the HUB will leverage that to do a great deal of business to business networking. The HUB also has plans to do some type of competition and awards for business plans that would be peer reviewed.

Mr. Jacobson reported that they are in the process of writing a new USDA grant that will be submitted this month for a two year \$200,000 grant. They have high hopes that it will be granted which will guarantee the continuation of the existing programs and also provide some money for the development of the Incubator and the Micro Finance loan. They are also working to secure grants and funding from the four counties that they serve, the various different towns as well as state and federal resources. They are working on budgets and planning; the \$200,000 over two years grant from USDA is not going to be enough so Mr. Jacobson stated that the Council can expect to see them again asking for assistance to help fund some of these programs.

In conclusion, Mr. Jacobson stated that the Coalition is open membership and there are no requirements other than supporting small businesses in the Lowcountry. Coalition members will be asked to work, serve on committees and asked to put in some sweat equity. There is additional information on their website at www.lowcountrysmallbusinesshub.org or call the HUB at 843-470-6023.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked what the HUB's operating budget is for this year. Ms. Moore responded that they had a two year budget of \$89,995 so they have been operating on approximately \$45,000 per year. Mayor Pro Tem Powell commented that it seems that they do a lot for very little. Ms. Moore stated that they are very lucky in the fact that the Coalition is

comprised of volunteers who have been working together for about one year and of the 35 organizations in the Coalition about 20 are present at meetings.

Mayor Bostick thanked Ms. Moore and Mr. Jacobson for making this presentation and added that he may ask them back to present at the next community workshop this Summer.

Interim City Manager Felder commented that the HUB has been extremely supportive of the Hardeeville Business Assistance Program which was formed in 2008, the same year the USDA grant happened. The next Business Assistance Program will be held on the 31st of this month, planning is underway. The type of programs the HUB is doing is the perfect regional partner for the HBAP and is just what was envisioned.

Ms. Moore distributed informational packets to the Mayor and Council.

**B. MS. KIM ABBOTT, USCB ATHLETIC DIRECTOR – SAND SHARK
BASEBALL TEAM**

Ms. Kim Abbott made a public thank you to the City for the use of the facility by USCB's baseball team, the Sand Sharks. Ms. Abbott stated that the facility has surpassed their needs and dreams and when they birthed this program three years ago, they did not know where they were going to play; the use of the City of Hardeeville's complex has given them a place they can call home. It has lifted their spirits and given them a chance to start a program that already has a great reputation. Ms. Abbott commented that Joe Gailey has become a friend and they have worked hard together. Ms. Abbott stated that she appreciates Mr. Gailey and the support from the Mayor, Council and the City. Ms. Abbott added that she hopes this program is enhancing the City as it is enhancing the University and she hopes that they are good stewards of what the City has given them to use and hopes to further their relationship with the City. Ms. Abbott added that there are two area businesses that have contributed to the baseball program by buying outfield signs and the University appreciates that.

Ms. Abbott commented that there are forty young men on the team, most of the players are from out of state and out of town and they are hoping that as they build their reputation they will get more local athletes to come. But the good news about that is that everybody that comes in is looking for a place to eat and a place to stay and they are hoping, especially in the City of Hardeeville, that this provides some business as well.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked Ms. Abbott when there will be a women's softball team. Ms. Abbott responded that this is their next sport which was supposed to start this year. It is slated as the next sport and following that is men and women's soccer. The plan is to bring in a coach this coming Winter, allow that coach to come in and recruit for the Spring and into the Summer and bring in the first softball class in Fall 2011; the first season would be Spring 2012.

Parks and Recreation Director Gailey commented that by virtue of having the Sand Sharks here, tomorrow from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. an NCAA Division 3 team that is traveling from

Pennsylvania to Florida will be using the City's facility to practice and they will be staying in the community tonight. Mr. Gailey added that they have a good relationship and enjoy having the Sand Sharks here.

Council Member Horton commented that the City appreciates what Kim and the University have done for this community, they have done an excellent job, and if anybody has not seen a game they should take the time and added that Ms. Abbott has some schedules that she can pass out to anybody in the audience. Council Member Horton commented that this it is some high caliber baseball that takes place and the field is in excellent condition, it looks like a professional ball field and the City appreciates the improvements the University has made.

Council Member Horton added that they look forward to more sports to come; there are all kinds of fields here and the City could work with the University in some way or fashion as they would like to see some football here as well.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. SECOND READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 3.5(D) OF THE MUNICIPAL ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE, BEING APPENDIX A OF THE HARDEEVILLE CODE OF ORDINANCES, REGARDING MANUFACTURED HOME NON-CONFORMITIES

(2010-2-4A)

PUBLIC HEARING

Interim City Manager Felder reported that this is the second reading of an amendment to the mobile home ordinance and deferred to Planning Director Snowden. Ms. Snowden stated that there have been no changes to this ordinance since first reading and added that they went back to the version with the clarification about rentals and indicated that City Attorney Tedder had corrected one minor typo. Attorney Tedder clarified that at the last meeting, Council Member Horton made a suggested amendment which is to clarify that the mobile homes are for single family use only and there was a deletion of eight to ten words which is reflected in the version they have in front of them tonight.

There was no public comment. A motion was made by Council Member Foskey to accept the second reading of Ordinance 2010-2-4A with section 3.5(D) amended. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Horton and carried unanimously.

V. PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 4, 2010 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A motion was made by Council Member Horton to approve the February 4, 2010 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes. The motion received a proper second by Mayor Pro Tem Powell and carried unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR FINANCIAL SOFTWARE PUBLIC COMMENT

Interim City Manager Felder reported that the City has been working hard to upgrade its financial software. Tonight, staff is asking Council to award such contract to be paid for by Hilton Head Lakes Municipal Improvement District funds at no cost to taxpayers. Mr. Felder recognized Finance Director Dennis Averkin.

Finance Director Averkin reported that the rationale behind the City moving to new software is twofold. One reason is to manage the complexities of the Municipal Improvement District; tracking all assessments, fees, and what comes out of it. The second overriding rationale is that the software the City currently uses is out of date and does not allow us to do some of the things needed to do.

Finance Director Averkin stated that one of the main benefits the City can expect from this particular contract is that software maintenance is free of charge for the first year which is approximately an \$18,000 value to the City. Secondly, the internet applications allow the City to put a lot of the citizen services on line, such as renewal of business licenses and building permits. These are improvements that are long overdue.

Finance Director Averkin reported that in terms of the overall price, Tyler Technologies came in lowest of all the bidders for the services that are needed. Tyler Technologies is the most predominant software for municipal finance; there are approximately fifteen municipalities in South Carolina currently using it with five scheduled to come on line this year.

Finance Director Averkin reported that to implement this software and get it running will take approximately 205 hours of work. If the City moves on this now, the implementation process could begin with a planned date of July 1, 2010. Finance Director Averkin stated that he is before Council tonight in accordance with the City's procurement ordinance to have an approval to move forward. Finance Director Averkin added that this offer is valid for another thirty days but would like to move forward sooner if possible.

Council Member Willis suggested that the Council move forward with this implementation as presented by Finance Director Averkin.

There was no public comment. A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Powell to award the contract for financial software to Tyler Technologies. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Willis and carried unanimously.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

At this time, Mayor Bostick apologized to Mr. Sal Arzillo and the community for not keeping them updated on the audit that the City had given to SLED a year and a half ago. However, they

have not been given a lot of information. Mayor Bostick asked that Police Chief Nagy call SLED tomorrow for an update so that if this question comes up again he will have information to report.

Interim City Manager Felder reported that former Council Member, Mr. Earl Cooler, suffered a heart attack this week and is currently at Savannah Memorial; he is doing okay and Mr. Felder asked that everyone keep the Cooler Family in their thoughts and prayers.

Interim City Manager Felder congratulated Mayor Bostick on being invited by President Obama to join his visit to Savannah on Tuesday.

Interim City Manager Felder announced that the Hardeeville High School Lady Hurricanes will be playing Christ Church at the State Championship Basketball Game on Saturday at 11:00 a.m. in Columbia and invited the community to attend.

Interim City Manager Felder reported that the Jasper County State House Day will be on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. in Columbia on the State House Grounds. It is the Third Annual State House Day and Mr. Felder encouraged all to attend. There will be a Lowcountry boil that the County serves. Items such as the Jasper Terminal, the Hardeeville Exit 3 Project, and the Sembler Okatie Crossings Project will be discussed.

Interim City Manager Felder reported that there will be a new annual program at the City, "Mayor for a Day" and "City Manager for a Day". One senior from Abundant Life Academy and one senior from Hardeeville High School will be chosen. The City is looking forward to giving an educational and fun opportunity to two students in the area to see what it is like to be in those positions. More details to come.

Interim City Manager Felder reported that the Education and Grow Breakfast hosted by the Hardeeville Chamber of Commerce, is scheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2010, 8:30 a.m., at Sgt. Jasper Park. Guest speakers are Dr. Gary Walters and Dr. Karen Woodfaulk from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. For more information, contact Renee Pendergrass at reneep@hargray.com or call Ted Felder at 784-2231.

Interim City Manager Felder reported that the Lowcountry Pow Wow and Cultural Festival will be held on Friday, March 12 through Sunday, March 14, 2010 at Millstone Landing. This is Hardeeville's annual celebration of Native American heritage. All are encouraged to attend and see intertribal dancing in full period regalia, drumming, arts and crafts, native and contemporary foods, Comanche Scout dancers, Eagle dancers and many others; story tellers and demonstrations for the children will also take place. Ticket prices are \$5 for adults, \$2 for students and seniors and free for children ages 6 and under. For more information call Mike Benton at 384-5551 or Ted Felder at 784-2231.

Interim City Manager Felder announced that there are census items on the table and in the hall. It is census time and everybody that gets counted helps the City get money. Please be sure that everyone that is part of the community gets counted as part of the census.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell commented that the new Police Department is just about finished and the City has gotten the Certificate of Occupancy today. Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked what the hold up is and what the next step is. Assistant City Manager Slocum responded that there are telephone and networking issues that need to be taken care of that will take a little bit of time to get prepared. Mayor Pro Tem Powell commented that Beaufort Construction has been doing a wonderful job for the community and they are pleasant to work with and added that hopefully there will be a grand opening day sometime before Easter.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Horton and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Powell to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Lori Pomarico, City Clerk

Date

SEAL