

CITY OF HARDEEVILLE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS
MINUTES
APRIL 15, 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, Police Chief Richard Nagy, Municipal Court Judge John Carroll, Fire Chief Dan Morgan, Finance Director Dennis Averkin, Police Captain Arnold Middleton, Police Lieutenant Steve Thomas, 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)

Dr. Richie Reed addressed the Council on behalf of the Hardeeville Youth Commission. Dr. Reed stated that there are currently nine members with two applicants. Dr. Reed read the vision and mission statements of the Hardeeville Youth Commission as well as a statement from Tamekia Daniels, Chairperson of the Youth Commission. The Hardeeville Youth Commission was organized in November 2009; they expect to expand to Ridgeland, and then form the Jasper Youth Commission.

Mr. Bill Nimmer, representative of the Jasper County Community Fund and Mr. Eric Woods, Vice Chair of the Community Fund addressed the Council. Mr. Nimmer thanked Council for considering a resolution of support for the Jasper County Community Fund and explained that the Fund was created as a permanent endowment fund for which proceeds will be used to provide annual grant making to the non-profit needs of the Jasper County community today and for many generations to come. Endowment funds provide an ongoing assistance for a community; this philanthropic fund has been established to celebrate those who are proud to be part of Jasper County's past and present, whose ties to the community are rooted in its history, its families, churches, small businesses, agriculture history and its sense of community. The endowment will be overseen by the Community Foundation of the Lowcountry which assists in over 200 individual and group philanthropic funds. The Jasper Fund is its own endowment with its own Advisory Council made up of Jasper community representatives to oversee grant making

and community awareness. Members of the current Advisory Board include Bill Nimmer, Eric Woods, Earl Bostick Jr., Gwen Smith, Helen Pittman, Theo Drayton, Jenny Carter, Gary Hodges, Barbara Ellis and Martin Sauls. All membership donations in 2010 will be matched, dollar for dollar, by a special grant up to \$30,000.

Mr. Nimmer stated that this year annual grants will be used to benefit various aspects of Jasper's important non-profit activities such as the arts, education, environmental support, human services and support, historical preservation efforts, community improvement projects and other worthwhile non-profit causes. Residents and businesses interested in joining the Fund can pick up a membership brochure at Hardeeville City Hall, Ridgeland Town Hall or at Ms. Honey Johnson's office at the County Executive office building, or they can contact the Community Foundation at 681-9100 or visit their website at cf-lowcountry.org.

Council Member Foskey asked how much support the Fund has received from municipalities. Mr. Nimmer responded that they have a resolution of support from Ridgeland Town Council and the Jasper County Council.

Council Member Foskey asked if individuals could apply for the grants. Mr. Nimmer responded that only qualified 501c3 non-profits could apply.

IV. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

V. PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 18, 2010
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A motion was made by Council Member Willis to approve the March 18, 2010 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Horton and carried unanimously.

VI. PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 22, 2010
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A motion was made by Council Member Horton to approve the March 22, 2010 Special City Council Meeting Minutes. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Foskey and carried unanimously.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ARTICLE 8 OF THE MUNICIPAL ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE, BEING APPENDIX A OF THE HARDEEVILLE CODE OF ORDINANCES, REGARDING SIGN REGULATIONS (2010-4-15A)
PUBLIC HEARING

Interim City Manager Felder reported that this is an amendment to the sign ordinance to improve the business atmosphere in the community. It is designed with certain goals to help make it easier to understand, comprehend and be able to interpret. Mr. Felder deferred to Planning Director Brana Snowden.

Planning Director Snowden reported that this amendment to the sign ordinance was presented first to Planning Commission on March 11, 2010 and then again on March 24, 2010 for their recommendation and approval to City Council. Problems identified with the sign ordinance are it is confusing, contradictory, cumbersome, conflicting in interpretation and complicated in the application process; created goals for the revised ordinance are that it should be simpler, manageable, enforceable, fair and user-friendly. Planning Director Snowden continued that ideas proposed are to reduce the size of the document, address issues of the conflicting areas, provide flexibility, remove confusion and simplify the code enforcement process. The Planning Commission suggested eliminating the permit requirements for window signs, extend time periods for Type I Temporary Signs (banners) and clarify political sign language. The proposed changes are to clarify permitted and illegal signs; place permit decals on each sign for easier enforcement; address the size of sign based on size of building not on the street frontage; sign types and dimensional standards easier to understand by eliminating diagrams and using a few tables; fixed setback issues in some districts; and temporary signs are divided into two types – Type 1, banners and Type 2, real estate, contractor and construction signs.

Planning Director Snowden stated that they would like to hold a Public Meeting by the end of the month and the Planning Department will be handing out flyers and soliciting input from business owners and the public as well as City Council, Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Council Member Foskey asked what different language is in the new sign ordinance to address all the blighted signs as far as deadlines in removing or repairing these signs and how the City can enforce this. Planning Director Snowden responded that the language has been simplified, and at the workshop earlier today a request was made to work on some of the language that gives a reasonable amount of time but not too long of a time period; something that makes sense for the business owners and for the reuse of some of these signs.

Council Member Horton commented that he appreciates the hard work that Ms. Snowden and the Planning Commission has done on this proposed sign ordinance and that it is a much easier to understand document than they have had in the past. Council Member Horton stated that there are a couple of things he would like to emphasize on including complaints he has received regarding the process and what people have to do to get a sign permit and to expedite that and, while he knows that is covered by administrative procedures and not necessarily by the ordinance, he asked that they ask for input and suggestions during the Public Meeting and find out where the problems are from the public. Secondly, Council Member Horton feels that they have gone in the right direction but in some instances they can go a little bit further such as in the current proposed ordinance if a business closed down their sign has to be removed. Some of the sign structures we have in place in Hardeeville, people have put up very elaborate structures and

as long as the structure is going to be reused they could block out the sign showing that the business is vacant. That is a lot of money for a business to have to take down, especially a property owner, if it can be reused. Council Member Horton stated that we are trying to promote that we are a business friendly atmosphere and we should show it through ordinances.

Mr. Paul Bathe commented that he is in the sign business and he could never understand the old sign ordinance and he feels that it is worthy for the public to know that the old document was 33 pages and is now 12 and how much it has been worked on and whittled down and how much of a better plan it is.

Mayor Bostick thanked Planning Director Snowden and Interim City Manager Felder for the work done on the sign ordinance and added that they are also addressing the time limit for business license and permits and they are going to try to reduce the price on them as well.

Council Member Willis congratulated all that worked on the sign ordinance; he has seen it go through three different processes and hopes that this one will stick.

There was no public comment. A motion was made by Council Member Foskey to accept the first reading of Ordinance 2010-4-15A. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Willis and carried unanimously.

B. FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION

Mayor Bostick read the resolution in its entirety and with Council's approval placed his signature on the document.

C. JASPER COMMUNITY FUND RESOLUTION

Mayor Bostick read the resolution in its entirety and with Council's approval placed his signature on the document.

VIII. MANAGER'S REPORT

Interim City Manager Felder reported that the next Regular City Council meeting will be held on Monday, May 3, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. instead of Thursday, May 6th.

Interim City Manager Felder reported that due to the change in meeting date, the Mayor and City Manager For A Day winners will also take place on May 3rd so that their day will also include a Council meeting. The schools will be notified tomorrow.

Interim City Manager Felder reported that there has been a date change for the Relay for Life event. The relay will take place at Coastal Carolina Medical Center on Friday, June 11, 2010 instead of Friday, May 14th. For more information in helping Team Hardeeville meet its goal

contact Lori Pomarico at 843-784-2231 or log on to the American Cancer Society website at www.cancer.org.

Interim City Manager Felder reported that the Hardeeville Centennial Planning Committee met last Thursday to discuss plans to expand participation for the City's upcoming centennial celebration and to share potential ideas and goals for these celebrations. Council Member Horton, Mr. Chris Damgen, Ms. Kathleen Wilson, Ms. Mary Hutchinson and Mr. Felder were all present; the Greater Hardeeville Chamber of Commerce will also be a part of the initial planning. There will be an organizing meeting on Wednesday, May 5, 2010, 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room for any citizen or business owner who is interested in becoming involved in the centennial celebration; food will be available and they encourage anyone in the community to attend. City staff will be sending out flyers throughout the community to promote this event and they will have information on HTVN and the City's website as well. If you have any questions or suggestions in advance of that meeting, please contact Chris Damgen at City Hall at 784-2231. Interim City Manager Felder stated that they are continuing with their effort to gather all the information available about all the Mayors of the City of Hardeeville over the last 100 years.

Interim City Manager Felder reported that the Mayor's Bicycle Ride for a Diabetes Cure will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2010 at the City Hall Recreation Complex. Mayor Bronco Bostick, the Hardeeville City Council, the Greater Hardeeville Chamber of Commerce, Coastal Carolina Medical Center, the American Diabetes Association, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and many other sponsors are coming together to make this event happen. There will be two courses -- one for children ages 3 to 10 starting at 9:00 a.m.; and the one for 11 and older will be a three mile route starting at 10:00 a.m. There is a \$10 entrance fee; participants will receive a t-shirt and refreshments. There will also be free health screenings for diabetes, high blood pressure, breast cancer, bone density, cholesterol or prostate cancer sponsored by the hospital. For more information contact Ted Felder at City Hall at 843-784-2231.

Interim City Manager Felder reported that the Jasper County Council, the Hardeeville City Council and the Ridgeland Town Council held a joint meeting this week in Ridgeland. Topics discussed included the Sembler Project, economic developments and future initiatives where all of the bodies can work together on projects; a tape of this meeting will be shown on HTVN. This group has decided to have bi-monthly meetings to be held on the second Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m., the first will be held in June. The importance of the joint meetings is that Jasper County always seems to speak louder and with a more powerful coherent message when it speaks with one voice instead of three disjointed messages. Anytime that we can work together with the Town of Ridgeland and Jasper County you can see what a force they can be which has best been illustrated in most recent months by the Sembler issue; with one voice we have really made a difference in that debate. It is always important to work together with our neighbors whenever we can.

Interim City Manager Felder reported that the Hardeeville United Methodist Church will be celebrating their 150th Anniversary on Sunday, April 18th with a special service starting at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Felder congratulated the Church on this important event.

Interim City Manager Felder reported that the Hardeeville Historical Society will have their next meeting on Thursday, April 22, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Interim City Manager Felder reported that the City of Hardeeville's 2010 Census participation rate has already surpassed the participation from ten years ago. The Census Bureau now estimates that 56% of our City's residents have turned in their forms. Anyone who has not received their form can get one at City Hall, Price Wise Foods, the Community Library, the Senior Center and the Hardeeville Thrift Shop. Beginning in early May, Census workers will start visiting homes of people that have not returned the form, please be sure that you and your household get counted and remember to ask the employee that comes to your door for their ID card to prevent any fraudulent attempts to get information from you; all answers are confidential and cannot be shared with any person, company or government agency including the FBI, IRS and Immigration.

Mayor Bronco Bostick asked that Mr. Felder keep an eye on a law in the House right now, S322, because it can affect our local chamber and hospitality tax.

IX. 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 Horton to recess for five minutes then move into Executive Session. The motion received a proper second by Mayor Pro Tem Powell and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Council Member Horton to return to Regular Session from Executive Session. The motion received a proper second by Mayor Pro Tem Powell and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Council Member Willis that the City offer the job of City Manager to Ted Felder upon the terms discussed in Executive Session, and that the Mayor and City Attorney be authorized to sign the contract with Mr. Felder on behalf of the City. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Foskey. The motion passed 4-1 with voting as follows: Mayor Bostick, In Favor; Council Member Willis, In Favor; Council Member Foskey, In Favor; Council Member Horton, In Favor; Mayor Pro Tem Powell, Opposed.

Mayor Bostick congratulated Mr. Felder on his appointment as City Manager for the City of Hardeeville and stated that he knows he will do a good job. Mayor Bostick stated that he has worked with Mr. Felder for the last four months and that he has done tremendously and he is proud of him.

City Manager Felder thanked the Mayor and Council for the confidence they have shown in giving him this opportunity. Mr. Felder stated that he is truly honored and humbled; this is a place where he wants to be, they have worked hard to show that Hardeeville is where Beth, John Goodwin and he want to make their home.

Council Member Horton stated that Councilman Powell and he were involved as members of the committee to put together the process and go through these applications; they had some very qualified applicants and over 90 submitted. It was a long and arduous process and through all of that, the cream floated to the top and we picked what we thought as the best candidate. Council Member Horton welcomed Mr. Felder aboard.

Council Member Willis stated that he has seen a few city managers come and go since he has been on this Council and by far this is the one that has done the best job and it has been his pleasure to work with over this period of time. Council Member Willis welcomed Mr. Felder aboard.

X. 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 7:30 p.m.

Lori Pomarico, City Clerk

Date

SEAL