

CITY OF HARDEEVILLE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS
MINUTES
APRIL 16, 2009
6:00 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, City Attorney David Tedder, Planning Director Brana Snowden, Assistant Police Chief Steve Murphy, Fire Chief Dan Morgan, Economic Development Director Ted Felder, City Clerk Lori Pomarico, Media Technician Juan Singleton and Media Technician Rob Lewis.

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)

Ms. Kathleen Wilson, chairperson of the Hardeeville Historical Society, addressed the Council and distributed a handout. The Society is working with agencies that are dedicated to restore and maintain the historical resources in the community to benefit and educate all of its citizens, to promote tourism, to provide revenue for the City, and when possible to employ citizens. Their goal correlates with the City's comprehensive plan. The Society would like to help the Council in any way possible on a priority project to fulfill the community plan. The Society currently has eight members and they are looking for more members who are interested in promoting and preserving the history of the Hardeeville community. Interested citizens can call Ms. Wilson at 783-0032.

Council Member Mike Foskey asked if the Society could investigate and determine what it would take to get a marker at the Methodist Church. Ms. Wilson responded that Patricia Stevens, chairperson of the church council, is working on this and they will be getting a marker before the 150 year celebration on April 18, 2010. The cost is estimated at less than \$2,000 and they are seeking donations. Mayor Pro Tem Roy Powell asked that Ms. Wilson notify City Manager Griffin of the actual cost so that he can forward it to the Council.

Council Member Bill Horton made a suggestion that Ms. Wilson meet with the City Manager and see if they can work something out where the Historical Society could

start helping with the Museum and artifacts at City Hall; rotating some of the displays; help to make sure we have an accurate inventory and further identify some of the items.

Mayor Pro Tem Roy Powell agreed with Council Member Horton and suggested that because the Heyward House is a huge undertaking maybe the Society could start out with something smaller, get settled and established then take on a project like the Heyward House. Ms. Wilson responded that the Historical Society is not going to take on the project, they are there as a resource because the members are all from this area.

Ms. Wilson asked Council what they would like the Society to do and should they work on the display first. City Manager Kevin Griffin responded that she would be contacted. Mr. Griffin also commented that they appreciate Ms. Wilson's attendance and input in the last comprehensive planning session and he encouraged more people to come out to those meetings.

IV. OLD BUSINESS - None

V. PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 2, 2009
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A motion was made by Council Member Horton to approve the April 2, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Foskey and carried unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION FOR SUPPORT OF STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK
APPLICATION

Mayor Bronco Bostick recognized Economic Development Director Ted Felder. Mr. Felder stated that the City is coming to the end of the SIB application process and getting close to filing the application with the State Infrastructure Bank. This project has garnered an unbelievable amount of regional support. One of the last things they want to do before submitting the application is to get a formal resolution from Hardeeville supporting this application.

Council Member Foskey asked how many letters have been received and who they are from. Mr. Felder responded that they currently have letters in hand from the Town of Port Royal, the Town of Bluffton, the Town of Ridgeland, the Town of Hampton, and one is on the way from the City of Beaufort; they will be asking for resolutions on Monday evening from Hampton County Council and Jasper County Council. They have also received letters of support from the Jasper Ocean Terminal Joint Project Office and are expecting one soon from the Georgia Ports Authority. They also plan to ask for the Lowcountry Economic Network's and Beaufort County's support before the end of the month.

Mayor Bostick read the Resolution for Support of State Infrastructure Bank Application in its entirety.

A motion was made by Council Member Willis to approve the Resolution for Support of State Infrastructure Bank Application. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Horton and carried unanimously.

B. APPOINTMENT OF THREE MEMBERS TO PLANNING COMMISSION

City Manager Griffin stated that they currently have three terms that have expired on the Planning Commission. As those expire, by ordinance, Council must nominate or re-nominate those four year staggered term positions.

A motion was made by Council Member Foskey to re-nominate current member Wilbur Aiken, and nominate Anthony Altizer and Linda Nease to the Planning Commission. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Horton and carried unanimously.

C. APPOINTMENT OF TWO MEMBERS TO BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

City Manager Griffin stated that two terms have expired on the Board of Zoning Appeals and those positions are open for appointment or re-appointment at the pleasure of the Council.

A motion was made by Council Member Willis to re-nominate Mack Thomas and Sister Lupe Stump to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Foskey and carried unanimously.

City Manager Griffin stated that those that have been nominated for Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals will be contacted for orientation and signed up for their first state mandated training session.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Kevin Griffin reported that last week the City had about six inches of rain in a period of 12-14 hours which brought to light some new issues as well as old issues with drainage. Since 2000, two pump stations were put in, one on Hwy 17, and a one-half million dollar improvement to a pump station on McTeer Street. A stormwater plan is in place and they are going to upgrade that plan. They are trying to identify situations and have been able to get some pictures of these things as they were happening which helps when moving forward in the funding process, such as a CDBG Public Works Grant to get new drainage implementation and construction done. They are working on some short term solutions but are also, through the budget, going to look at a substantial investment and moving the next phases forward. Mr. Griffin asked that if anyone has any input or any problems to let them

know, submit in writing either by email or something that can be dropped off, so that they can try to define what the big picture problems are that need to be solved.

City Manager Griffin reported that they had a good Opening Day for Baseball and Easter Egg Hunt and as part of that learned that they need a few more bleachers in the recreation area. Mr. Griffin is working with James Gardner and Joe Gailey of the Recreation Department on trying to get funds through a grant process. Additionally, citizens have made comments that they would like some more seating and possibly some swings around the park.

City Manager Griffin reported that he and Finance Director Dennis Averkin met with Verna Garvin, Hazel Holmes and County Administrator Andy Fulghum to talk about a number of different issues. One issue that Ms. Holmes and Ms. Garvin would like to see is a satellite office for Jasper County, here in Hardeeville, to serve the lower part of the County. As they work through the budget process they will be looking at an agreement to locate those offices here and some possible facilities that the City has.

City Manager Griffin reminded the public that the first 2009-2010 budget meeting will be next Wednesday at 5:00 pm in the Community Room at City Hall. All are invited to come and give their input to staff and Council on what is going on in the budget process. The first draft budget will be on the website soon.

City Manager Griffin reported that the next Comprehensive Plan Meeting will be on May 5th, at 5:30 pm. The first elements are being updated with the input from the sessions and other input from Council and community members. He would like as many community members as possible to attend.

Ms. Kathleen Wilson asked with the satellite office if Hardeeville would be collecting city taxes separate from county taxes. Mayor Bostick responded that it would not. City Manager Griffin stated that citizens will be able to pay their taxes in Hardeeville rather than Ridgeland but would have to pay city and county taxes together. Ms. Wilson asked if the City had Ms. Lyndia Daniels' property on the list of drainage problems. City Manager Griffin responded that he had not heard from Ms. Daniels but he would add her property to the list and give her a call.

City Manager Griffin reported that they have been working and assisting the library and have been talking with the County about getting a number of different issues addressed, and have been looking at some possible larger short term solutions for the library. There will be a meeting next week with County officials and library officials and there may be an announcement after that meeting as to an update to the library situation. Mr. Griffin also reported that they are working through a number of different grants with the stimulus and non-stimulus, possibly an appropriations grant. They are looking for a large grant package that relates to libraries and should have more information at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Bostick asked what the timeframe would be when they would start working on the drainage issues. City Manager Griffin stated that they do not have the equipment to go out and tackle the big problems, but they can go out and tackle culvert issues. The City can work with the highway department in the areas that are state right-of-way to get culverts enlarged. They will probably need a third pump station because of an issue with water getting across I-95. Mr. Griffin asked that citizens not rake their leaves and yard debris into the ditches.

Mayor Bostick asked if the satellite office would be started this fiscal year. City Manager Griffin responded that they would like to propose to have it in place this year.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell commented that he would like to give credit to Jeff Slocum, Kevin Griffin and Dennis Averkin on the budget, and commended Kevin for hiring Dennis who has brought a lot of good ideas to the new City of Hardeeville. Mayor Pro Tem Powell also thanked all of the department heads for their hard work and asked the public to read the budget and if they have any questions to call Mr. Griffin.

Council Member Brooks Willis commented that there have been problems with leaves for a number of years and unfortunately there are a few citizens that cause a lot of trouble and heartache for a lot of citizens, and asked if there is an ordinance against dumping leaves in the ditches. City Manager Griffin responded that there are a number of ordinances about drainage ways. The City has not had a great problem with this until there is an incident like the other day. Hopefully, we will be able to contact those property owners and let them know what the situation is and help them look at some alternatives of what to do with their yard debris. The City certainly does not want to go down the code enforcement road, but if it is putting other properties in danger that may be the final alternative.

Council Member Horton commented that as a person that has been on the Council for a long period of time, he was pleasantly surprised this afternoon with what was presented as the initial budget. It is clear, concise and it is cut pretty well. It is a breath of fresh air to the quality of the staff that we have in place at this point, they are doing an exemplary job of trying to save and stretch a dollar as far as they can especially in the tough economic times we have. The budget will very shortly be on the website and hard copies will be at the library. If anyone would like their own personal hard copy it may be available at City Hall, it is quite an extensive document, so there may be some reproduction fees.

Council Member Horton commented that numerous Council Members have received numerous calls on drainage issues and if anyone has a problem do not hesitate to call City Hall or any of the Council Members. All of their numbers are listed on HTVN, Channel 9. Council Member Horton stated that they expect the heat sometimes and they are here to serve the citizens.

Council Member Foskey commented that a lot of people are not aware of who runs the library and stated that if anyone wants to help out the library they can contact Beth McNeer, Regional Director, at bethmcneer@yahoo.com.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council Member Horton and seconded by Council Member Foskey to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Lori Pomarico, City Clerk

Date

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