

CITY OF HARDEEVILLE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS
MINUTES
MAY 20, 2010
6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Bronco Bostick, Mayor Pro Tem Roy Powell, Council Members A. Brooks Willis, Michael Foskey and Bill Horton, City Manager Ted Felder, Assistant City Manager Jeff Slocum, City Attorney David Tedder, City Clerk Lori Pomarico, Planning Director Brana Snowden, Finance Director Dennis Averkin, Municipal Court Judge John Carroll, Police Chief Richard Nagy, Fire Chief Dan Morgan, 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 6:05 p.m.

II. INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

City Manager Ted Felder gave the invocation.

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

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

Ms. Julie Bowman, Principal of Abundant Life Academy, publicly thanked the City of Hardeeville, especially Joe Gailey, Paul Martin and Bill Setto of the Public Works Department. A couple of weeks ago Abundant Life hosted the South Carolina Association of Christian Schools state baseball and softball tournaments at the recreation facility and they received many comments on the facilities; everything was in perfect order and condition and Ms. Bowman thanked Joe and his crew for going above and beyond. Ms. Bowman reported that the guys won their tournament and the girls came in runner up; it was a great time and Ms. Bowman asked City Manager Felder if they could get it set up for next year. The event was a good boost for the City, quite a number of the hotels were full, the restaurants were used; Blimpies at Bobops, Subway at Exit 8 and MiTierrita donated platters of food for their hospitality booths for the coaches and officials. ALA was proud, everything turned out really well. Ms. Bowman stated that Mayor Bostick threw out the first pitch and presented him with the signed ball as well as pictures of the pitch and a t-shirt signed by the teams.

Mayor Bostick commented that the City is always glad to have Abundant Life and appreciates everything they are doing for the community with the Easter Egg Hunt as well as providing food and services for our citizens for Thanksgiving.

Ms. Linda Nease commented that on Tuesday, May 11th, the citizens of Hardeeville had the opportunity to exercise one of their greatest rights we as Americans have, the right to vote. As a result of that election, tonight will be the last Council meeting for two of our sitting Council Members, Mr. Horton and Mr. Willis. Ms. Nease stated that she is here today to express her appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Horton and Mr. Willis for their combined 18 plus years of service to the City of Hardeeville. Mr. Nease thanked each of them for their dedication, countless hours of service and most importantly the sacrifices they made in their personal lives as they worked so hard to make Hardeeville a better place and wished both only the best as they go forward.

Ms. Nease stated to the incoming Council Members, Mrs. Carroll and Mr. Arzillo, Mayor Bostick, Mayor Pro Tem Powell and Council Member Foskey that she would stand behind them and wished them all much success as they go forward making the important and sometimes very difficult decisions regarding our City.

A. FRANKIE DENMARK, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT RELATIONS AND
ANDREW REIN, VICE PRESIDENT OF RESIDENTIAL SALES, HARGRAY

Mr. Andrew Rein stated that he was going to outline Hargray's philosophy; how they allocate resources; how they make the decisions that they make; and also describe a little bit of the services they have provided and what is coming down the path. Mr. Rein reported that over the last 3 or 4 years Hargray has spent tens of millions of dollars a year investing in additional network; everything from upgraded electronics and upgraded fiber, they build miles and miles of fiber every year; in Hardeeville as well as to other parts of their service territory. This enables them to upgrade the levels of service they provide to their customers which is their primary goal. In the last 18 months they have added 41 high definition channels going from 9 to 50; they have drastically increased their internet capacity; they have upgraded their telephone network substantially; they have bundled in a set of significantly advanced features; and they have invested considerably in the products and services they provide and there is much more on the way. Mr. Rein indicated that a big data upgrade is coming later this year which they are very eager to begin talking about; it will be very beneficial for the residents of Hardeeville.

Mr. Rein reported that the second area where they focus considerable time that is applicable to both Hardeeville and the rest of Hargray's footprint is investing and improving customer care. More customers are requesting technical help and they have endeavored to upgrade their staff substantially and have created Hargray University where all of their technicians go through a long and laborious process during which they are trained. Three years ago Hargray had no installation repair technicians in house, today all have been brought back in house, all supervisors, all managers have been trained and are now the best trained technicians in the State of South Carolina and are able to perform service on any number of technology platforms.

Mr. Rein reported that the last thing that Hargray does is stay relevant in the community. They spend hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions, every year sponsoring events, donating to charities, being a part of the community. The closed circuit television being used at City Hall is

provided by Hargray, it is run out over their television system on a dedicated piece of fiber that runs from here to their head end. Hargray feels that it is important for local individuals to see local content and they have not only done this for Hardeeville but for many other government institutions and neighborhoods; creating customized neighborhood channels.

Mr. Rein reported that Hargray is a major employer in this area; they employ over 350 employees all of whom contribute to the economy. The money Hargray invests in new plant directly leads to job creation in this area and all money that is provided to Hargray is turned back into this community in the form of the investments that they make.

Mr. Rein stated that something Hargray is particularly proud of, given the immense economic challenges faced in this country and in this state, and unlike almost every other major business that they know of that has taken this opportunity to significantly reduce headcount during this economic climate, Hargray has resisted that and has not let anyone go who continues to be a strong professional and committed employee; Hargray is proud that they have not made any economy related layoffs and feels that is an important part of what they do as a community – continue to support those that are employed and therefore keeping the economy strong and the tax base high.

Mayor Bostick thanked Mr. Rein for coming and commented that he recently learned that Hargray is the number two employer in the County. Mayor Bostick stated that he is very interested in our youth and how they can get employment once they are out of high school and asked Mr. Rein what are some of the jobs available at Hargray, the average pay and how to apply for a job at Hargray. Mr. Rein responded that the positions that they hire the most are sales representatives as well as technicians. With both of those positions, Hargray is not looking for people who know how to sell or people who know how to install, they are looking for people who have a will. They can train people to do anything so they are looking for those that have a desire to work hard; they will put them through Hargray University, on the sales side intense product training so that they can be competent and capable of engaging with people looking for services on the phone; and those that want to join their technician force there is complete training for those. Hargray is constantly hiring those positions; there are approximately 60 technicians and 45 sales representatives on their staff at any one time. They also hire IT professionals, finance and accounting professionals and other areas of the company as well. Mr. Rein stated that the best place to look for employment with Hargray is on their website, Hargray.com. All job listings are placed there at all times for positions that are open, or call the main number.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked if Hargray serviced all of Jasper County. Mr. Rein responded that they did. Mayor Pro Tem Powell commented that it is his understanding that Hargray just recently closed the last office in Jasper County and stated that if there is anyone that needs to do business with Hargray they would have to travel to Beaufort County. Mr. Rein responded that they are closing their retail store in Ridgeland and specified that because there are offices all over Jasper County where technicians and central office individuals work and service all of Jasper County. None of that will be going away; there will be no degradation of service. The reason for closing the retail store in Ridgeland is largely outlined in the philosophy Mr. Rein went

through; it is difficult in these economic times to find the resources to make the appropriate investments in the network to deliver the types of services the people want and demand and Hargray has endeavored to ensure that their workforce is protected as much as possible. Mr. Rein reported that every opportunity they can find to reduce expenses where it is a cost center as opposed to a profit center, particularly if it doesn't relate to people or service quality, those are the areas they look for; the Ridgeland store is not a profitable store. There still will be retail stores in Beaufort, Bluffton and Hilton Head. The closing of the Ridgeland store was not entered into lightly; it was business dictated in order to preserve jobs and to continue to invest in service.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell stated that he recently found out that Hargray has always maintained a franchise agreement with the City of Hardeeville to disallow another cable franchise to come in. Mayor Pro Tem Powell commented that last week he learned that Hargray actually cancelled our municipal franchise agreement back in February and Mr. Powell spoke to someone at the Secretary of State's office who said that by law Hargray did not have to notify the municipality when they cancel an agreement. However, as a working neighbor, Mr. Powell stated that it would have been nice if the City had been notified. Mr. Rein responded that Hargray did notify the City and that the City notified the State that Hargray was in compliance with the franchise agreement. The reason for the cancellation is Hargray is now able to get statewide licenses for cable franchises which substantially reduce the administrative burden. This will not affect Hardeeville at all, the City will continue to get paid, and will continue to have the services Hargray continues to provide. Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked that Mr. Rein forward by email when Hargray notified the City.

B. MS. DELIA CASKEY, ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR, BLUE HERON NATURE CENTER

Ms. Delia Caskey thanked the Mayor and Council for the invitation and the opportunity to talk about the Blue Heron Nature Center and invited everyone to visit the facility. Ms. Caskey commented that the number of visitors has increased over the last two months and they are happy to see that. The Blue Heron Nature Center is owned and operated by the Jasper Conservation District; it is non-profit and they get funds through grants, donations, some appropriated funds and hopefully, A-Tax funds. Their focus is environmental education and they offer that to all communities, adults and children. Ms. Caskey reported that last year they had approximately 1500 children participate in the programs that they offer such as furs, animal habitats, stormwaters, wetlands, and a variety of different issues that pertain to environmental science programs. The Center started in 1996 with two mitigated wetlands and they constructed those into what is now a stormwater runoff area around a pond which is about ½ acre and consists of wetlands on the boardwalk area and the rest is a recycled tire area; the pond has many varieties of turtles and three alligators that have hatched and are still there. All of the facility is from donated funds so there is no cost on it. There is also a 4200 square foot log cabin that consists of a classroom that can accommodate 45 seated with tables and 90 seated without tables. Ms. Caskey stated that they offer hunter education courses that have been well attended as it is a requirement in South Carolina that all people ages 16 or older must have this hunter's education permit. On April 30th they offered a course "Litter Trashes Everyone" for their Earth Day

Program which was attended by Hardeeville and Ridgeland Schools with around 500 first and second graders.

Ms. Caskey distributed brochures and pictures on how the Center was started and how it was built and she thanked the Council again for the opportunity to be here this evening and hopes that the Council will visit them.

IV. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

V. PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 3, 2010
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A motion was made by Council Member Horton to approve the May 3, 2010 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Foskey and carried unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY AS TEEN PREGNANCY
PREVENTION MONTH

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

B. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MAY AS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

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

C. RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE TERM OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AGREEMENT BETWEEN JASPER COUNTY AND THE CITY OF
HARDEEVILLE

City Manager Felder reported that this is a proposed one year extension of our intergovernmental agreement with Jasper County for us to provide fire protection for the Hardeeville Rural Fire District and Cherry Point through July 1, 2011. The current agreement ends in a few weeks and the County has asked us to renew it for a year. This arrangement has been mutually beneficial to the City and Jasper County. Staff recommends ratifying this extension.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked if this changes anything for the City of Hardeeville and Jasper County, that they still pay the same fire rate because the City counts on the money from the County for the City budget. City Manager Felder responded that this does not change any of the funding.

There was no public comment. A motion was made by Council Member Horton to accept Resolution VIC. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Foskey and carried unanimously.

Mayor Bostick stated that he concurred with Ms. Nease and this is the last night for two of the Council Members. Mayor Bostick stated that Mr. Willis and Mr. Horton will be sadly missed by the Council and mostly himself; he had the chance to work with Mr. Willis for two terms and with Mr. Horton over the last six years. Mayor Bostick stated that they have often been his “go to” guys, and during his time as Mayor these last two years, he believes that he has not lost an issue yet and thanked Mr. Horton and Mr. Willis for that. Mayor Bostick also thanked Mr. Willis for being the chaplain to this Council.

Mayor Bostick read and presented plaques to Mr. Willis and Mr. Horton in appreciation for their years of dedication and faithful service to the City of Hardeeville.

Mr. Willis thanked the citizens of Hardeeville for making it possible for him to serve the City for the past twelve years, he is grateful for that experience and for being some part in a small way of everything that has gone on during that time.

Mr. Horton commented that it has been a long six years and during that time there have been a lot of meetings, a lot of workshops and out of all of that time he has been able to figure out a way to be at all of them but one. Regretfully, Mr. Horton stated that he will not be able to be at the next meeting when our two new Council Members are going to be sworn in; and he hates that because it is a passing time for Hardeeville and it is not meant as any disrespect to them nor to the community. Mr. Horton stated that he will be taken away by his job to South Dakota during that time. Mr. Horton congratulated Mrs. Carroll and Mr. Arzillo and told them how much he appreciated the fact that everybody ran a clean race during this election and there were many, many opportunities out there that there could have been some mud slinging, but everybody treated each other with respect. They had a good time out there on Election Day; they joked around quite a bit and it was a lot of fun.

Council Member Horton also thanked the citizens for allowing him the opportunity to serve them for six years. There were some good times and some bad times and he would not trade them for the world; they helped make him the person he is today and he looks forward to continuing public service in some form or fashion; he is not going to crawl under a rock and go away; he is going to be on the other side of the podium busting on the Mayor and Council making sure that they do the job that the citizens elected them to do. Mr. Horton asked that everyone get behind the Mayor, the Council and the City. Mr. Horton added that there is a great celebration coming up, the one hundredth anniversary of our City, it is going to be a great time in Hardeeville and Mr. Horton asked that everybody get behind and get involved in their City, and he stated that he will be there and he wants to see everyone there.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell thanked Mr. Horton and Mr. Willis as a citizen and as a Council Member for the City of Hardeeville. Mr. Powell especially thanked Mr. Horton for answering the many

questions he has asked him and added that he appreciated that especially two years ago when he was first coming on Council.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Felder recognized Finance Director Dennis Averkin to introduce a new employee.

Finance Director Averkin introduced Ms. Chanel Lewis to the Mayor, Council and Council Members Elect. Mr. Averkin noted that Ms. Lewis has joined the finance staff as a grants coordinator and accountant. Ms. Lewis comes to the City from the City of Columbia where she has extensive municipal accounting experience; she is a graduate of the prestigious Chestnut Hill University in Philadelphia with a degree in accounting; and she is going to be a great addition to the City and a great ambassador for the City in her new role.

Ms. Lewis thanked the Council for this opportunity and stated that she is excited to be here.

City Manager Felder reported that the Mayor's Bicycle Ride for a Diabetes Cure is Saturday, May 22nd. Mayor Bronco Bostick, the Council, and the Greater Hardeeville Chamber of Commerce have formed a partnership along with Coastal Carolina Medical Center and the American Diabetes Association and many other corporate sponsors to put on this inaugural event. It will start at 9:00 a.m. for children ages 3-10 and the adults will begin at 10:00 a.m. on a three mile route throughout the City. Registration is \$10 per person; each will receive a t-shirt and refreshments. Free health screenings including diabetes, high blood pressure, breast cancer, bone density, cholesterol and prostate cancer will be available. Mayor Bostick has done an outstanding job going to several radio and TV stations in promoting this and it will be an exciting day for the City. Mr. Felder thanked the Chamber for its help as well.

City Manager Felder reported that the 2nd Annual Catfish Festival Motorcycle Ride will be on Sunday, May 23rd starting at 9:00 a.m. This is the kickoff event for this year's Catfish Festival in the Fall. For more information contact John Sanders at 247-2765.

City Manager Felder reported that the 2010 Summer Intern Program marks the third year we have had summer workers in the City. The program runs from June 21st through August 6th. For more information contact Lori Pomarico at 784-2231.

City Manager Felder reported that the Friends of the Library will have their next meeting on Monday, May 24th starting at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Community Room. For more information call Ted Felder at 784-2231.

City Manager Felder reported that the next workshop on the proposed City budget will be held on Tuesday, May 25th at 6:00 p.m.

City Manager Felder reported that the Hardeeville Historical Society will hold their next meeting on Thursday, May 27th at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room.

City Manager Felder reported that on Tuesday, June 1st at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room will be the Girl Scouts Awards Banquet.

City Manager Felder reported that on June 5th, the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce is holding their annual Jasper on the Move and Awards Banquet from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at September Oaks Vineyard in Ridgeland. For more information contact Kendall Malphrus or Julie Mingledorff at 726-8126.

City Manager Felder reported that the Jasper County Relay for Life will take place at Coastal Carolina Medical Center on Friday June 11th. Contact Lori Pomarico for information on how to get involved and help Team Hardeeville meet its 2010 goals; or log on to the American Cancer Society website at www.cancer.org.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked City Manager Felder if USCB has made the tournament. City Manager Felder responded that he would get that information and have it on HTVN as soon as possible.

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 6:45 p.m.

Lori Pomarico, City Clerk

Date

SEAL