

CITY OF HARDEEVILLE
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
AND PUBLIC HEARINGS
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 18, 2008
6:00 PM

Present: 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, Economic Development Director Ted Felder, Parks and Recreation Director Joe Gailey, Finance Director Dennis Averkin, Municipal Judge John Carroll, Police Chief Richard Nagy, Assistant Chief Steve Murphy, Fire Chief Dan Morgan, City Clerk Lori Pomarico and Public Information Director Jason Rogers.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Roy Powell 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)

Parks and Recreation Director Joe Gailey presented two special event permit requests. The first request was from the Hardeeville Junior and Senior High School for their Homecoming Parade, Friday, October 3, 2008, 2:00 pm. The route will be the same as last year starting from the campus at City Hall, down Main Street to Martin Street to Boyd Street to Hwy 17 to Ulmer, back to Boyd Street to Heyward or Horton and back to the park. The second is Scout Troup 235 has requested that they be permitted to hold a yard sale here on September 27, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. to mid afternoon to help raise funds for the scouts.

City Attorney David Tedder stated that under the special event permitting process, the Council would move to approve these two special event permits with any conditions you might find appropriate added or approve as submitted.

A motion was made by Council Member Horton to approve both special event permits. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Foskey and carried unanimously.

Mr. Jerome Davis made a presentation to the Council on behalf of the Jenkins Avenue Neighborhood Association requesting that the Council look into the heavy traffic and lack of sidewalks on Jenkins Avenue.

Council Member Horton commented that last year the City applied for a competitive grant to put sidewalks on Jenkins Avenue and was denied. They have actively looked for funding to try to help these people. It is basically a monetary issue of finding the funding to put a sidewalk there. City Manager Griffin added that the City has applied through the State Competitive Grant Program for funding for sidewalks for Jenkins Avenue. The program awards two rounds per year and the City has not received an award for any grants through that program in the first round. They should be awarded again sometime between now and February 1, 2009. Once the City has closed out the Community Block Development Grant we now have for the downtown streetscape, we can possibly look at another grant fund for sidewalks. Mr. Griffin stated that another idea regarding truck traffic would be to put a restriction on through traffic if it would be possible for that traffic to go southeast. Police Chief Nagy stated that he would have someone stop by the two businesses tomorrow to address this and try to work out something.

Council Member Foskey stated that he agreed and suggested that maybe together with the Jasper County Council they could work to get some funding for sidewalks.

Council Member Willis suggested that in addition to trying to get sidewalks for Jenkins Avenue, the speed limit of 35 miles per hour should be reduced to 25 miles per hour all over the City. Mr. Willis asked the Council to have City Manager Griffin explore the situation with the State Highway Department to get these speed limit signs in residential areas reduced to 25 miles per hour.

Ms. Pamela Williams stated that tractor trailers come down that street at full speed all day long; from 7:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. vehicles come down the street because of Jenkins Plumbing and again at 2:30 p.m. they begin to come back. Mayor Pro Tem Powell stated that he has seen police officers stationed at the stop sign facing toward Jenkins Avenue and hopes that this has slowed down the traffic. Ms. Williams stated that the truckers seem to know when the police cars are there and they slow up.

A. DANNY BRYAN PROCLAMATION

Council Member Foskey read the proclamation in its entirety and presented it to Mr. Danny Bryan recognizing him for his outstanding acts of bravery at the Savannah Sugar Refinery explosion on February 7, 2008.

IV. OLD BUSINESS - None

V. PRESENTATION & APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 14, 2008 SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND THE AUGUST 21, 2008 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A motion was made by Council Member Willis to approve the August 14, 2008 Special City Council Meeting Minutes and the August 21, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting Minutes.

The motion received a proper second by Council Member Foskey and carried unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. FIRST READING OF AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ANNEXATION FOR THE PARCELS LOCATED AT BRICKYARD ROAD TMP 042-00-06-015 (+/-5.49ACRES) **(AULD PROPERTY) (2008-9-4A)**
PUBLIC COMMENT

City Manager Kevin Griffin recognized Planning Director Brana Snowden on this item. Ms. Snowden stated that this 5.49 acre piece of property is requesting annexation and referred to a map showing that this property is surrounded by the Tradition Planned Development District in the City of Hardeeville. Ms. Snowden stated that this is one hundred percent method of annexation and the developer meets all the standards.

There was no public comment. A motion was made by Council Member Horton to accept Ordinance No. 2008-9-4A at first reading. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Foskey and carried unanimously.

B. FIRST READING OF A ZONING AMENDMENT LOCATED AT BRICKYARD ROAD TO BE REZONED FROM RESIDENTIAL IN UNINCORPORATED JASPER COUNTY TO GENERAL COMMERCIAL (GC) IN THE CITY OF HARDEEVILLE (TMS 042-00-06-015) (+/-5.49 ACRES) **(AULD PROPERTY) (2008-9-4B)**
PUBLIC COMMENT

City Manager Kevin Griffin recognized Planning Director Brana Snowden on this item. Ms. Snowden stated that this item went to Planning Commission and the developer is requesting General Commercial. The property is surrounded by the commercial portion of the Tradition Planned Development as well as properties to the east and west all have commercial zoning within the City. Staff and Planning Commission both recommend approval.

There was no public comment. A motion was made by Council Member Willis to accept Ordinance No. 2008-9-4B at first reading. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Horton and carried unanimously.

C. CONSIDERATION OF PETITION REQUESTING ZONING AMENDMENT FOR GATEWAY CORNERS PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
PUBLIC COMMENT

City Manager Kevin Griffin explained that the petition requested is for the Council to process a rezoning request. By state law, only the Council itself or the property owner can rezone a particular piece of property. The actual zoning issue will not be decided tonight. This is a group of residents that has petitioned a particular property adjacent to their community to be

rezoned because of their concerns about commercial traffic and a number of other things. City Manager Griffin deferred to Planning Director Snowden. Ms. Snowden stated that this petition was brought to Planning Commission as the Planning Department was starting work on the comprehensive plan and felt it was best to get their insight on hearing from the community and helping the Council make this decision. Ms. Snowden displayed the property in question noting there are two portions on either side of Moorer Avenue that fronts along Frontage Road, and Moorer and Burke Street where Burke Street and Foskey Road meet. There was a planned development in place a number of years ago that has been amended with certain uses allowed that the neighborhood would like Council to reconsider. Planning Commission has recommended that Council take this into consideration and possibly initiate this zoning change.

Council Member Foskey commented that this community is trying to prevent exactly what has happened on Eugenia Avenue and Jenkins Avenue.

Council Member Horton asked if the property owners are requesting any specific residential zoning or just residential. Ms. Snowden responded that it was just residential as stated in the petition that was sent out to Council. Council Member Horton asked if this is approved by Council what would happen from this point. City Attorney Tedder responded that he is familiar with this PUD and that it has been before City Council in years passed. Under the State Enabling Act, this Council can direct the Planning Commission and staff to explore the appropriate zoning for a particular piece of property and the direction would be to have Ms. Snowden take this tract of land, notify the owners and go before the Planning Commission to determine if it is appropriately zoned and, if not, to bring back through Planning Commission up to Council a request for appropriate zoning. Ms. Snowden added that because it is a Planned Development it gives us more flexibility, and the history of this offers a lot of options.

Council Member Horton stated that he would be the first to admit when he has made a mistake. Council Member Horton stated that he has spoken to the people on Jenkins Avenue regarding the problem with Jenkins Plumbing and admitted that it was a problem and that he would look out to make sure that something like that wouldn't happen to the City in the future.

A motion was made by Council Member Horton to send this rezoning request to Planning Commission for further study and recommendation. The motion received a proper second by Council Member Foskey and carried unanimously.

D. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION FROM HARDEEVILLE
CATFISH FESTIVAL COMMITTEE FOR FUNDING FOR THE 2008
CATFISH FESTIVAL
PUBLIC COMMENT

City Manager Kevin Griffin stated that this year the City is bringing back the Catfish Festival and has a citizen committee for the festival. Each council member has either nominated themselves or someone to serve on this committee as well as representatives from the community such as the Marine Rescue Squadron, the Boy Scouts and the Chamber, as well as a number of others. The committee has worked over the past month to put together a very nice festival. At the budget session this year, there were some concerns by Council of exactly what type of festival we would have and it was decided to leave any funding for the festival within the Council's contingency budget to make that decision at such time that we decided what type of festival we would have. City Manager Griffin stated that in the Council's packet there is an interim cash request to the City Council for the festival in the amount of \$26,450. Mr. Griffin stated that of that amount, approximately nine to ten thousand dollars will come back to the City through registration fees from vendors and different ticket sales. Last year the City originally budgeted approximately \$30,000 for the Celebrate Hardeeville Festival. Mr. Griffin deferred to Council Member Foskey who sits on the committee. Council Member Foskey stated that the amount is considerably less than last year and it is feasible.

Council Member Horton stated that he would like to applaud the people that have put this committee together and the people in the community that have stepped up. It shows what all of those who ran to get on this council wanted to do to bring this community back together.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell added that hopefully the businesses in Hardeeville and surrounding areas get behind this so that the City of Hardeeville can each year have a better event than the year before and as long as we are moving in the right direction this should be a wonderful thing for the whole City.

A motion was made by Council Member Foskey to move \$26,450 from the contingency fund to the festival line item in the general administration budget. The motion received a proper second from Council Member Horton and carried unanimously.

VII. APPOINTMENTS

A. APPOINTMENT OF ONE MEMBER TO BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

City Manager Griffin stated that there is an immediate opening on the Board of Zoning Appeals. This is the only quasi-judicial body in the City meaning that any determinations made on the Board of Zoning Appeals about zoning or land development issues can only be appealed to district court and cannot be appealed to council.

Council Member Horton nominated Mr. Edgar West of Sauls Court for the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. West is a long time resident of Hardeeville, a smart gentleman involved in business most of his life, is retired and has time to put in and is interested to serve. He is in agreement and is looking forward to serving on the board. The nomination received a proper second from Council Member Foskey and carried unanimously.

At this time Council Member Brooks Willis recognized Bill Miles, president of the Hilton Head Chamber of Commerce.

VIII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Kevin Griffin reported that Wednesday, September 24, 2008 is the 4th Annual Jasper Chamber Golf Tournament being held at Tradition. For more information call the Jasper Chamber at 843-726-8126

City Manager Griffin reported that the 2nd Annual Tour of Historic Jasper County event will be held on Saturday, October 18, 2008. Visit historic plantation homes, churches and various historical points of interest in Jasper County. Tickets are on sale for \$50 per person and can be purchased by calling 726-8126.

City Manager Griffin reported that there will be a Hunter Education Course offered for youth on Saturday, September 20, 2008 at the Blue Heron Nature Preserve Center starting at 8:30 a.m. Children 12 years of age and younger must be accompanied by a guardian and must have a social security card. This is the prerequisite for any youth getting a hunting license in the State of South Carolina.

City Manager Griffin reported that the Jasper County Farmers' Market is open every Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Anyone who would like to participate can call Ms. Honey Johnson at 843-726-8127.

City Manager Griffin reported that Coastal Carolina Hospital and the American Red Cross continue their blood drives.

City Manager Griffin introduced Dennis Averkin. Mr. Averkin has joined the City as the new Finance Director. He is a resident of Ridgeland, has an undergraduate degree from Clemson University and a masters degree from Purdue University. He has worked in the public and private side of finance.

Finance Director Dennis Averkin thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the City and the citizens of Hardeeville. Mr. Averkin stated that the transition is going smoothly and ahead of schedule.

Municipal Judge John Carroll reported there were a total of 714 tickets, 398 in July 316 in August; 54 bond hearings; 61 arrest warrants. Judge Carroll reported that on September 23, 2008 he will have been working for the City of Hardeeville for 20 years.

At this time Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked that Police Chief Nagy and Officer Gerry Brown join Judge Carroll as he commended them on the professionalism recently shown to a friend from Beaufort County by the Hardeeville Police and the Hardeeville Judicial Court.

Parks and Recreation/Public Works Director Joe Gailey reported Patriots football is going well; field house was used for the first time; the Hardeeville Hurricanes will be playing their first home game at the Recreation Center tomorrow at 7:30 pm; USCB baseball practice every afternoon from 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm; Phase II of Recreation Complex on schedule and should be done by middle of October. Planning on Catfish Festival is going well and the committee will begin meeting weekly beginning next week; Miss Catfish Beauty Pageant will take place on October 18th at Abundant Life; Golf Tournament October 24th at Tradition; Teen Dance October 24th from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the complex for ages 14 to 18, admission fee; Catfish Festival October 25th from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm, eating contest, pie and cake judging, fishing rodeo 9:00 am, car show, Hardeeville Idol talent show, High Velocity Band from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, fireworks 10:00 pm, rides 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. Mr. Gailey thanked Ms. Kim Powell and Council Member Foskey for their help. Mr. Gailey also thanked Hardeeville Today for co-sponsoring with ads. Clear Channel Radio will have ads, in addition to HTVN and the City's website. Any forms can be found on the website next week or can be picked up at City Hall.

Council Member Horton asked Mr. Gailey and City Manager Griffin if an itinerary of the Festival events could be posted on the City's website and on HTVN. Mr. Gailey responded that a list has been provided to Public Information Director Jason Rogers. City Manager Griffin added that some information is running on HTVN as of today.

Mr. Gailey reported that Public Works has been edging Main Street and cutting grass through town; have received several calls regarding animals and addressing them as received, have put out traps and dispersing animals in Ridgeland at shelters; start cutting on Hwy 278 and Hwy 17 South next week; continuing streetscape on Hwy 17.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked who is responsible for maintaining Randall Street. City Manager Griffin stated that construction is running DOT legal loads on that road and once construction is complete it will be addressed. Mr. Sal Arzillo stated that Mr. Henry Taylor, 2nd District Highway Commissioner, and his Director of Maintenance will be addressing the Hardeeville Chamber of Commerce on September 30th and he would be glad to take them to Randall Street after the meeting.

Council Member Willis asked if all of the equipment at the playground is in and wanted to know if there will be swings installed. Mr. Gailey responded that swings will be looked into for the future. City Manager Griffin added that there have been a number of community requests for a dog park. The plan is to convert the previous playground area into a dog park.

Fire Chief Dan Morgan reported that for the month of August the Fire Department responded to 93 emergency incidents, of those 69 were in Station 81 Downtown District and 21 were in Station 82 Cherry Point District; in District 81 there were 2 structure fires, 1 passenger vehicle fire, 45 rescue and emergency medical service incidents, 3 hazardous conditions with no fire, 1 service call, 14 good intent, and 7 false alarm and false calls; in

District 82 there was 1 brush fire, 1 over pressure call, 3 rescue and emergency medical service incidents including motor vehicle accidents, 2 good intent, and 3 false alarm and falls calls.

Council Member Foskey asked if the Fire Department has had problems finding house numbers. Fire Chief Morgan responded that he is currently putting together an article for the Hardeeville Today to address that issue specifically. The county has an ordinance in place that requires homeowners to display their E911 address on the outside of their house in a conspicuous manner and in a reflective material.

Mayor Pro Tem Powell asked if the Fire Department can assist citizens put the numbers on their homes in addition to changing batteries in smoke detectors. Fire Chief Morgan responded that the department would be able to assist with putting out signs.

Council Member Horton added that there is an ordinance in the City of Hardeeville that requires that building and street numbers be displayed on the front of the building.

Fire Chief Morgan stated that he had received notification last week that they were awarded the SAFER Act Grant in the amount of \$650,000 federal share to fund six full time firefighter positions which would allow for two more per shift every day, one at Cherry Point Station and one at the Downtown Station. There will be five firefighters on duty to protect the City of Hardeeville 24 hours a day 7 days a week. There is a five year commitment on the grant. The federal funding diminishes every year and the fifth year of the grant the City assumes the full cost of salaries for the firefighters.

IX. 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 6:50 p.m.

Lori Pomarico, City Clerk

Date

SEAL