

GREENWOOD CITY COUNCIL

December 21, 2015 - 5:35 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT Council Members: Mayor D. Welborn Adams, Niki Hutto, Linda Edwards, Betty Boles, Kenn Wiltshire, Johnny Williams, and Ronnie Ables; City Manager Charles Barrineau, Assistant City Manager Julia Wilkie, City Clerk Steffanie Dorn, City/County Planning Director Phil Lindler, Police Chief Gerald Brooks, and City Attorney James Padgett; Brian King from gwdToday.com and Colin Riddle from the Index Journal.

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Adams called the meeting in Council Chambers to order at 5:35 p.m.

City Manager Charles Barrineau gave the invocation.

STATEMENT AND QUORUM Mayor Adams read the following statement, "In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, Chapter 4, Title 30, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, an agenda has been posted on the front door of City Hall and notification of this meeting has been given to the news media."

City Clerk Steffanie Dorn confirmed that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA Mayor Adams asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda.

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Betty Boles, seconded by Linda Edwards.

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER Under Public Hearings, City Manager Charles Barrineau reviewed the proposed ordinance that would allow the CPW to borrow money to purchase natural gas, if needed. To his knowledge they haven't had to use it, but Council approves this ordinance annually.

Ordinance No. 15-039 to Authorize the City Manager to Issue CPW Revenue Bond Anticipation Notes in 2016.

(2nd reading)

No one spoke for or against the proposed ordinance.

There was no discussion from Council.

A motion to approve Ordinance No. 15-039 was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Ronnie Ables.

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER City Manager Charles Barrineau reviewed the proposed budget for 2016 that is balanced at \$15,028,473 in the General Fund which included a recommended 7.99 mill tax increase. There are no new positions but the budget does include a two percent cost of living adjustment for City employees and where they all are paid at \$10 per hour, or better. The budget also includes a \$400,000 Capital Lease Purchase and a recommendation to use \$363,989 from the Capital Improvement Fund to purchase needed equipment.

Ordinance No. 15-040 to Adopt the Budget for 2016.

(2nd reading)

Those who spoke against the proposed 2016 Budget Ordinance were:

James Coleman of 1310 Yvonne Avenue, in his opinion, he understands the cost of living adjustment but questions the City's need for new equipment. He asked if giving City employees a two percent raise will require them to do more work because they're doing less in his community. He also noted there were sidewalks, ditches, and other areas that are overgrown and the need for an increase in police patrol. Mr. Coleman also asked if Public Works employees could be moved from Uptown to work in neighborhoods. Councilor Kenn Wiltshire informed him that there is a three to four week cycle for Public Works to maintain the whole City, so a month will be about average before they return to his neighborhood. He also noted the two percent pay increase is for employee retention.

Reverend Fred Armfield of 111 Wisewood Circle is against the tax increase because senior citizens living on fixed incomes will not be getting a Social Security/Disability Income (SSI) cost of living increase in 2016 while their medication and expenses are going up. He believes there are other alternatives to obtain the money to balance the budget. Mr. Armfield asked Council to remember, and have compassion for, senior citizens who voted them into office.

No one spoke in favor of the tax increase.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Betty Boles addressed James Coleman's comments stating that, while Public Works tries to be on schedule, staff had tried to accommodate him and his complaints. She also addressed Reverend Fred Armfield's comments by stating that she prays before making decisions affecting all people, not just one group, and is compassionate toward senior citizens. Mrs. Boles noted she must consider the whole picture in doing what is best to keep the City going and understands that everyone must make sacrifices.

Councilor Linda Edwards also addressed Reverend Armfield's comments by stating that she will not be threatened by who will or will not vote for her. She noted that as a single, senior citizen who is also a renter, she has already been notified that her rent will be increased and must therefore make financial sacrifices. While having compassion for senior citizens, she also considers young employees trying to raise their families. Councilor Edwards also noted the City of Greenwood trains their employees very well and other municipalities will offer them more money because they're already experienced.

A motion to approve Ordinance No. 15-040 was made by Kenn Wiltshire, seconded by Linda Edwards.

Those who voted in favor were Mayor Adams, Niki Hutto, Linda Edwards, Betty Boles and Kenn Wiltshire. Johnny Williams and Ronnie Ables voted against.

The motion passed 5-2.

CONSIDER
Ordinance No. 15-041 to Levy Tax for the City of Greenwood for 2016.

City Manager Charles Barrineau reviewed the proposed ordinance that will set the millage increase at 111.69 for real estate property and 103.7 for motor vehicles.

No one spoke for or against the proposed ordinance.

There was no discussion from Council.

(2nd reading)

A motion to approve Ordinance No. 15-041 was made by Linda Edwards, seconded by Niki Hutto.

Those who voted in favor were Mayor Adams, Niki Hutto, Linda Edwards, Betty Boles, and Kenn Wiltshire. Johnny Williams and Ronnie Ables voted against.

The motion passed 5-2.

CONSIDER
Ordinance No. 15-036 Amending the City of Greenwood's Official Zoning Map (Ordinance No. 04-020) by Rezoning One Parcel of Land Located at 209 Booker Street Totaling .35 Acre from R7 (High Density Residential) to NS (Neighborhood Services).

Under Unfinished Business, City Manager Charles Barrineau reviewed the owner's rezoning request for Neighborhood Services that allows for a limited number of uses within the site. The City/County Planning Commission recommended approval.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Betty Boles asked if the agenda item can be tabled until the next meeting because she was unable to contact the neighborhood association due to sickness and death in her family.

There was no further discussion from Council.

(2nd reading)

A motion to table consideration to rezone 209 Booker Street from High Density Residential to Neighborhood Services was made by Betty Boles, seconded by Kenn Wiltshire.

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER

Ordinance No. 15-037 Amending the City of Greenwood's Official Zoning Map (Ordinance No. 04-020) by Rezoning One Parcel of Land Located at 410 Sample Road Totaling .96 Acre from R3 (Medium Density Residential) to NS (Neighborhood Services).

(2nd reading)

City Manager Charles Barrineau reviewed the owner's request to rezone 410 Sample Road to operate a beauty shop. The Planning Commission recommended approval.

There was no further discussion from Council.

A motion to approve Ordinance No. 15-037 was made by Kenn Wiltshire, seconded by Niki Hutto.

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER
 Ordinance No. 15-038 Amending Ordinance 03-010, Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 3, Article 2, Sections 3.2.1.3., 3.3.2.3., 3.3.4.2., 3.4.1.3., Special Exceptions Requirements for Communication Towers within the City Limits; and Article 6, Planned Development District Regulations for Communication Towers within the City of Greenwood.

City Manager Charles Barrineau reviewed the Planning Commission's request for a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding communication towers. If approved, all applicants that wish to place a tower in the City of Greenwood must receive special exception approval from the Board of Zoning Appeals to include a public hearing and notification to surrounding property owners.

There was no discussion from Council.

A motion to approve Ordinance No. 15-038 was made by Kenn Wiltshire, seconded by Niki Hutto.

The motion passed unanimously.

(2nd reading)

CONSIDER
 To Accept Proposal from Segal Revenue and Expense Specialists, Inc.

City Manager Charles Barrineau informed Council of the North Carolina based firm that audits business license collections to determine if there are some areas where the City may be missing revenue.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Johnny Williams wanted confirmation that the firm only gets paid if they find more money than what the City is already collecting. He believes that no one is better at finding untapped revenue than Captain David Price in the Finance Department. City Manager Barrineau confirmed that the firm would only get 50% of what is found during a 3 year period.

City Manager Barrineau confirmed to Councilors Edwards and Boles that Segal Revenue and Expense Specialists, Inc. is an accounting firm from North Carolina that assists municipalities on revenue collection. Starting at the beginning of the year, the firm will handle all collections from their audits of LLCs, utilities, franchises, statewide and national accounts. Captain Price will continue to physically patrol local venues.

A motion to enter into contract with Segal Revenue and Expense Specialists, Inc. was made by Betty Boles, seconded by Kenn Wiltshire.

The motion passed unanimously.

CITY MANAGER
COMMENTS

City Manager Charles Barrineau informed Council that their work session is scheduled for Monday, January 4, 2016. Because the MLK Holiday is on the third Monday in January, the next Council business meeting will be on January 25. He also asked Council to inform him if they will be attending the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner that will be held January 21.

CITY COUNCIL
COMMENTS

There were no comments at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Linda Edwards.

Mayor Adams adjourned the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

D. Welborn Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk and Treasurer