

GREENWOOD CITY COUNCIL

November 20, 2012 - 5:33 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 to City Manager Julia Wilkie, City Clerk Steffanie Dorn, and Police Chief Gerald Brooks; City Attorney Tripp Padgett; Michael W. Davis of GwdToday.com and Chris Trainor of the Index Journal.

CALL TO ORDER The meeting in Council Chambers was called to order by Mayor Adams at 5:33 p.m. and he welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Councilor Linda Edwards gave the invocation.

QUORUM AND STATEMENT 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."

The City Clerk, Steffanie Dorn, stated that there was a quorum present.

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

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

The motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNIZE

Betsy Manning of the SC Youth Advocate Program/Resource Family Program.

Under the only Public Appearance, Mayor Adams recognized Betsy Manning who provided Council information regarding the South Carolina Youth Advocate Program, a private, nonprofit placement agency that is under contract with the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) to recruit, retain, support and license foster homes. There are currently nine children in Greenwood in foster care. One of the agency's biggest needs in this county are families that are willing to work with DSS as part of a team and take in sibling groups, teens and children from out of town.

Mayor Adams inquired of the agency's relations with Connie Maxwell Children's Home. Ms. Manning stated the agency doesn't place children in group homes but provides placements for temporary foster care. She did note that Connie Maxwell does have a foster care program and the SC Youth Advocate Program uses their families as part of their "pool" of foster families.

Betty Boles inquired about the length of time a child will be placed with a family or whether they would be adopted. Ms. Manning stated the court system plays a big part in which a family must complete a treatment plan before a child is returned. The shortest length of time is 24 hours and the longest can be up to six or eight months.

Councilor Niki Hutto inquired about the children's ages and foster family compensation. Ms. Manning stated the ages of children ranges from 0 to 17. If the child remains in school, it can be up to 21 if they sign an agreement with DSS. Board pay given to families depends on the age and amount of children in the home to offset the cost of having them in their house.

CONSIDER

Ordinance No. 12-022 Amending the Business License Ordinance Provisions for Insurance Companies.

Under Public Hearings, City Manager Barrineau discussed proposed Ordinance 12-022. There are no changes since first reading.

No one spoke for or against Ordinance No. 12-022.

There was no discussion from Council.

Motion to approve Ordinance 12-022 was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Ronnie Ables.

(2nd reading)

The motion passed unanimously.

-attach-

CONSIDER Under Unfinished Business, City Manager Charles Barrineau apologized to Council for not requesting Reverend Thompson to appear at the meeting but did confirm that he is willing to serve.

Appointing
 Reverend James
 Thompson to
 Replace Willie
 Lee on the city
 of Greenwood
 Board of
 Architectural
 Review (BAR).

A motion to appoint Rev. James Thompson to the BAR was made by Kenn Wiltshire, seconded by Linda Edwards.

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER Under New Business, City Manager Barrineau stated that this annual ordinance enables the City to authorize the Commissioners of Public Works (CPW) to borrow money to buy natural gas in advance if needed.

Ordinance No.
 12-023 to
 Authorize the
 City Manager to
 Issue CPW
 Revenue Bond
 Anticipation
 Notes in 2013.

Motion to approve the CPW Revenue Bond Anticipation Notes Ordinance was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Linda Edwards.

(1st reading) The motion passed unanimously.

-attach-

CONSIDER City Manager Barrineau discussed the Budget Ordinance for 2013. The General Fund budget is \$12,922,026. He noted that the budget is balanced without a tax or fee increase. The budget has no cost of living adjustment for staff and it includes the following:

Ordinance No.
 12-024 to Adopt
 the Budget for
 2013.

- Anticipated Employer State Health contribution increase of 6.37%.
- Increase for employer contribution for State Retirement System.
- Provide for one additional police officer in the Gang Investigator Position.

(1st reading)

- \$120,469 from the Capital Improvement Fund for three major purchases: 1)The second phase of computer server upgrades 2) inkless fingerprint system to provide information to the FBI NCIC database 3) purchase of used SUV for the new Gang Investigator position.

The City Manager noted the purchase of gasoline is budgeted for the same amount as last year and some key projects include the following:

- The 2013 Hospitality Tax portion of budget includes the fifth and final payment of \$300,000 for the total of the City's \$1.5 commitment to the Jeff May Sports Complex at Lander.
- Continued operations support for the Dr. Benjamin Mays site
- A \$35,000 grant budgeted to the Emerald Triangle Cultural Arts partners for the Theatre to purchase a plug and play projection system to allow them to have movies, speakers, and other systems.
- A \$375,000 match for the latest CDBG award of \$500,000.
- Funding for staffing of 3 new positions to provide the annual labor and maintenance for the Festival of Flowers topiaries.
- Funding to purchase a greenhouse and equipment for the topiaries.
- A \$25,000 grant for the Railroad Center. (The staff will be at the December work session to discuss in further detail.)
- And \$15,000 budgeted for website improvements.

Councilor Johnny Williams inquired of buying a SUV when there is one already in the fire department and suggested the police investigator use the truck. City Manager Barrineau reminded Council of three SUVs in the fire department. He doesn't agree with removing the third SUV from the Fire Marshall because the truck is not as reliable, but will work at the discretion of Council.

Mayor Adams inquired of the vehicle's mileage. City Manager Barrineau stated the SUV is a 1990's model with low mileage and is still reliable around town.

Councilor Boles asked if it was driven by the Fire Chief. City Manager Barrineau stated that it was driven by one of the assistants but is now driven by the Fire Marshall to respond to fires.

Councilor Kenn Wiltshire inquired about the cost to convert the SUV into an undercover vehicle. City Manager Barrineau will research the removal of lettering, red lights, etc., but doesn't believe that it would be significant.

Councilor Linda Edwards advised Charlie to do what is needed because the officers need the ability to respond to incidences such as recent shootings. She doesn't see savings in transitioning the existing SUV versus buying another one.

Councilor Betty Boles asked if the three positions in public works have been filled. City Manager has one position filled and is working on the Crew Chief position description with a horticultural background.

Motion to pass the Budget Ordinance as written pending on the City Manager's research to be presented at the work session was made by Betty Boles, seconded by Linda Edwards.

The motion passed unanimously.

-attach-

CONSIDER

Ordinance No.
12-025 to Levy
Tax for the City
of Greenwood for
2013.

(1st reading)

City Manager Charles Barrineau stated that this ordinance is at the same rate of 98.7 mills without any changes for 2013.

Councilors Williams and Ables both complained of tax increases. City Manager Barrineau noted that it is the result of Greenwood County's reassessment.

A motion to accept the ordinance to levy tax was made by Kenn Wiltshire, seconded by Betty Boles.

The motion passed unanimously.

-attach-

CONSIDER City Manager Barrineau informed Council of this annual ordinance that allows the City to borrow money if needed. He doesn't anticipate borrowing money in the coming year.

Ordinance No. 12-026 to Authorize the City Manager to Issue Tax Anticipation Notes in 2013. Motion to accept the ordinance to authorize the City Manager to issue tax anticipation notes in 2013 was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Niki Hutto.

(1st reading) The motion passed unanimously.

-attach-

CONSIDER City Manager Charles Barrineau recognized City Clerk Steffanie Dorn who apologized for the error of inserting wrong section numbers of ordinances after recodification to include:

Ordinance No. 12-027 Amending Ordinances 10-024, 11-007, 11-024, and 11-027.

- Ordinance No. 11-007 regarding produce stands that exempted anyone with a Certified Growers permit in lieu of a business license.
- Ordinance No. 11-024 that clarified rates related peddlers. The existing rates are not being changed, just the section numbers from Chapter 15 to Chapter 10.
- Ordinance No. 11-027 related to appeals to City Council will be the final decision.
- Ordinance No. 10-024 corrected misspelled legal term "accidens".

Motion to accept ordinance amending Ordinances 10-024, 11-007, 11-024, and 11-027 was made by Kenn Wiltshire, seconded by Niki Hutto.

The motion passed unanimously.

-attach-

CONSIDER
 Ordinance No. 12-028 Adding Section 56 to Division 2, Article II - Business Licenses of Chapter 10, "Business Regulations, Solicitations, and Sales".

City Clerk Steffanie Dorn stated that rates weren't clearly designated during the recodification process. There were no changes to the rates or classification systems but were transposed into Appendix A, B, or C to make them easier to change.

A motion to add Section 56 to Division 2, Article II - Business Licenses of Chapter 10 was made by Kenn Wiltshire, seconded by Betty Boles.

The motion passed unanimously.

(1st reading)

-attach-

CONSIDER
 Ordinance No. 12-029 Approving an Inter-governmental Agreement Giving Consent for the Distribution of Fees in Lieu of Tax from Certain Property in the Comprehensive Joint County Business and Industrial Park between Greenwood County and Newberry county.

City Manager Charles Barrineau commended Mark Warner of the Partnership Alliance for his work on Project Seminole. This is the incentive portion of a \$14.5 million investment that will provide 125 new jobs. The property is already in the multi-county park but a portion that's not in the City will be annexed. The request is for an 85% special source revenue credit over 15 years.

Councilor Williams asked if everything has been finalized. City Manager Barrineau feels confident but cannot guarantee it.

A motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement between Greenwood and Newberry Counties was made by Johnny Williams, seconded by Niki Hutto.

The motion passed unanimously.

(1st reading)

-attach-

CONSIDER

Authorize the City Manager to Accept a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to Extend Streetscape Improvements on Portions of Oak Avenue and Main Street.

City Manager Charles Barrineau informed Council of the approved Community Development Grant funds application and thanked the staff at Upper Savannah Council of Governments and Assistant to City Manager Julie Wilkie for their work on the streetscape project. He reminded Council of their approving the match of \$375,000 and CPW has also pledged in-kind labor help with electricity with Greenwood Metropolitan providing the engineering for sewer upgrades. The location is Oak Avenue and Main Street next to the Professional Building where Elliott Davis offices are located and the goal of this improvement is to make the Textile Building more attractive for redevelopment.

A motion to authorize the City Manager to accept the \$500,000 CDBG grant was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Betty Boles.

Those who voted in favor were Niki Hutto, Linda Edwards, Betty Boles, Kenn Wiltshire, Johnny Williams, and Ronnie Ables. Mayor Adams abstained due to a conflict of interest.

The motion passed 6-0.

CONSIDER

Acceptance of Insurance Damages for Not-at-Fault Vehicle Accident and Allocation of Funding.

City Manager Charles Barrineau discussed the anticipated \$8,500 given to the City from a vehicle accident where a 2008 Crown Victoria police car was rear-ended on Interstate 26 and asked for \$22,000 towards a new police vehicle. He stated some options of vehicles the City has in stock and capital funds that are available to provide for a new car. In 2012 the City budgeted \$325,981 out of the Capital Fund and the City Manager anticipates ending the year only using \$56,000 which will provide additional money.

Councilor Williams stated that the current vehicle doesn't have a lot of miles on it. City Manager Barrineau noted that 125,000 miles is a lot for police cars and recommended not putting any more money into that vehicle.

Ronnie Ables recommended using present vehicles as long as possible since they're not being used 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

City Manager Barrineau stated that the short fleet rotation may cause a car to be used for 24 hours. He did note that the City will be purchasing new cars in 2014.

A motion to accept the insurance money and adding \$22,000 for a new police vehicle was made by Betty Boles, seconded by Kenn Wiltshire.

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

The motion passed.

CONSIDER

Allocation of
Maxwell Avenue
Rural
Infrastructure
Funding Grant
Assigned for
Façade
Enhancements.

City Manager Charles Barrineau informed Council of \$16,000 that was left from the Long Alley enhancement project from Thayers to Mabry Sanders buildings and staff will invest the remaining \$4,000 in facades. Greenwood Glass and the Millhouse Pizza expansion will participate by matching 10% in the loan assistance program for new awnings.

A motion to allocate Maxwell Avenue Rural Infrastructure Funding Grant was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Kenn Wiltshire.

The motion passed unanimously.

CITY COUNCIL
COMMENTS

Mayor Adams thanked Council for allowing the rescheduling of this month's meeting and asked the City Manager if he can drink this Sunday. City Manager Barrineau stated that he hasn't seen any approvals from the Department of Revenue to issue any permits yet.

Councilor Williams asked why the rest of the City's Christmas decorations don't look as good as the area in front of the old library. City Manager Barrineau stated that staff has made improvements every year and will look into moving the snowflakes obscured by trees.

Councilor Linda Edwards asked Police Chief Gerald Brooks the amount of officers assigned to patrol neighborhoods.

Chief Brooks stated that there is a minimum five officers staffed for four shifts to patrol neighborhoods every day. Most detectives, warrant officers, and drug units are working as well but only a minimum of five will respond to a 911 call while patrolling neighborhoods.

CITY MANAGER
COMMENTS

City Manager Barrineau stated the following:

- The Kitson Mill site cleanup is going well and debris is being removed.
- The Christmas parade is December 2nd at 2:30 p.m. on the same route.
- Staff is still waiting on the gas tank results and the contractor should be back Monday after Thanksgiving. All the water still hasn't been removed from the tank so the City is still using Spinx for gas.

ADJOURNMENT

Linda Edwards made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Betty Boles.

Mayor Adams adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

D. Welborn Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk and Treasurer