

GREENWOOD CITY COUNCIL

September 18, 2017 - 5:31 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT Council Members: Mayor D. Welborn Adams, Niki Hutto, Betty Boles, Kenn Wiltshire, Matthew Miller, and Ronnie Ables; City Manager Charles Barrineau, Assistant City Manager Julia Wilkie, City Clerk Steffanie Dorn, City Attorneys Bacot & Padgett; Adam Benson from The Index Journal.

ABSENT Councilor Linda Edwards.

CALL TO ORDER Mayor D. Welborn Adams called the meeting in Council Chambers to order at 5:31 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 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 Kenn Wiltshire.

The motion passed unanimously.

RECOGNIZE Under the only Public Appearance, City Manager Charles Barrineau recognized Chad Charles, Executive Director of the Greenwood Habitat for Humanity, who thanked Council and City staff for their support by attending community meetings and grant assistance. He then distributed a Greenwood area economic impact speculation booklet.

Chad Charles, Director, of the Greenwood Area Habitat for Humanity.

CONSIDER Under New Business, City Manager Charles Barrineau reviewed the proposed update to Ordinance 97-009 removing stipulations allowing part-time employees to accrue any type of annual or sick leave.

Ordinance No. 17-020 Amending Ordinance No. 97-009.

DISCUSSION:

City Manager Barrineau informed Councilor Betty Boles that the City has one part-time and several seasonal employees such as school crossing guards and public works laborers.

There was no further discussion from Council.

A motion to amend Ordinance No. 97-009 was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Ronnie Ables.

The motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDER City Manager Charles Barrineau discussed the following Accommodations Tax Committee distribution recommendations:

Resolution 17-011 Approving the Distribution of 2016 Accommodations Tax Funds.

AGENCY	\$ REQUESTED	\$ COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED	\$ APPROVED BY COUNCIL
City of Greenwood	31,715.81	31,715.81	31,715.81
Greenwood Regional Visitors/Tourism	40,294.87	40,294.87	40,294.87
The Emerald Triangle	39,000	30,000	30,000
Greenwood Performing Arts	7,500	6,250	6,250
South Carolina Festival of Discovery	20,000	20,000	20,000
South Carolina Festival of Flowers	38,000	23,555.55	23,555.55
Greenwood Railroad Center	7,500	7,500	7,500
Total	\$184,010.68	\$159,316.23	\$159,316.23

He noted that Councilors Niki Hutto and Matthew Miller will abstain from voting due to a conflict of interest.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Kenn Wiltshire felt the Greenwood Performing Arts should be allocated the requested amount because of their diversity of programs at the Greenwood Community Theatre. Councilor Boles agreed that Cecily Furgerson had innovative ideas and Assistant City Manager Wilkie noted that the Accommodations Tax Committee was also encouraged by her presentation. City Manager Barrineau confirmed that the Greenwood Performing Arts did receive an increase of funds from last year.

Mayor Adams appreciated the Accommodations Tax Committee's efforts.

There was no further discussion from Council.

A motion to accept Resolution 17-011 approving the recommended distribution of 2016 Accommodations Tax funds was made by Betty Boles, seconded by Kenn Wiltshire.

Those who voted in favor were Mayor Adams, Betty Boles, Kenn Wiltshire, and Ronnie Ables. Niki Hutto and Matthew Miller abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.

The motion passed 4-2.

CONSIDER

The Allocation of Community Funds to Request Greenwood County to Assign a Tax Deed for 314 Jackson Avenue (Greenwood County Parcel Identification Number 6845-581-972) to the City of Greenwood.

City Manager Charles Barrineau informed Council that 314 Jackson Avenue is the address of the Old Greenwood Mill Community Center. After the owner abandoned the property in 2009, the building has become a dilapidated, attractive nuisance, and the City has been maintaining it by keeping the grass cut. He noted that, although great environmental risks are involved, the only way the City can secure Community Development Block Grant money to demolish it is to gain ownership. His goal is to submit the application before the 2018 deadline.

DISCUSSION:

City Manager Barrineau confirmed to Councilor Ronnie Ables that, if the application is successful, it may be Spring of 2019 before demolition takes place.

Councilor Hutto noted that the City cannot apply for anything before environmental studies are done first. City Manager Barrineau confirmed the cost to obtain the property is \$12,765.44 in unpaid taxes and possibly \$10,000 for the environmental study.

Councilor Boles noted that there are other Wards in the City with property issues similar to the Old Greenwood Mill site and asked what would happen if the owner decides to reclaim the property. City Manager Barrineau stated that the City is already heavily invested in the Old Greenwood Mill property and the owner must pay back taxes and delinquent fees, plus interest, to reclaim the property.

Mayor Adams agreed with Councilors Ables and Hutto that, although the property will likely be a greenspace, the building is a liability and an eyesore in close proximity to Uptown.

There was no further discussion from Council.

A motion to allocate community funds to request Greenwood County to assign a tax deed for 314 Jackson Avenue was made by Niki Hutto, seconded by Matthew Miller.

The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Betty Boles, seconded by Niki Hutto.

Mayor Adams adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

D. Welborn Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk and Treasurer